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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
28 January 2008—7 February 2008

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28 January 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 January 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Unlocking Britain's Talent

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): I am today laying before the House a Command Paper—"Ready to Work, Skilled for Work: Unlocking Britain's Talent". Copies will be made available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. The Command Paper sets out how the Government intend to help employers to recruit job-ready individuals and raise the skills base of their staff. It outlines a number of key measures:

Expansion and improvement of the apprenticeship programme in England

The Government want to build on the success of the current apprenticeship programme and have undertaken a review of apprenticeships in England. This review carried out jointly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, is being published alongside the Command Paper today.

The report, "World Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All", sets out a wide range of steps which will improve apprenticeships for the future and ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all qualified young people by 2013 and as part of raising the participation age in learning to age 18. There is a particular focus on how we can work with employers, through a new dedicated national apprenticeships service, to expand the opportunities to young people and adults. Key measures from the review are:

> We want apprenticeships to be a mainstream option for 16 to 18 year olds, and will ensure that by 2013 every suitably qualified young person who wants to take up an apprenticeship place will be able to do so.
>
> As we grow a high quality programme on this scale, taking up an apprenticeship may become attractive to even more young people. We will maintain our commitment to meeting the demand from suitably qualified young people, so that if more come forward we will work with employers to expand the programme further. On this basis, we anticipate that around one in five of all young people will be undertaking an apprenticeship within the next decade, so that an apprenticeship place will be a mainstream post-16 option;
>
> a focused delivery system, including a separately branded 'National Apprenticeships Service' with end-to-end accountability for the apprenticeships programme, a dedicated field force to support employers and learners, and appointment of a director of the service to lead and champion at the most senior level;
>
> strengthening the apprenticeship experience, by improving the apprenticeships blueprint to set out the rights and responsibilities of employer and apprentice and include a signed apprenticeship agreement;
>
> action to boost the supply of apprenticeship opportunities, through a more flexible and responsive model for apprenticeship frameworks, incentives payments to targeted businesses, an apprenticeships credit delivered via skills accounts, and improving public sector supply of apprenticeship places;
>
> a drive to change the culture around the value of Apprenticeships by providing a national matching service, and high-profile events celebrating the achievement of apprentices; and
>
> more to improve equality of opportunity and access, through positive action to encourage young women and young men to consider apprenticeships traditionally limited to one gender and ensure that contractual wage regulations set by the LSC are fully enforced.

The review will be followed by the publication of draft legislation later this year. I am placing a copy of the apprenticeships review report in the Library.

Steps to make it easier for employers to recruit and train staff

The UK has enjoyed record levels of employment, with 2.9 million more people in work since 1997. We will build on this to ensure all people can share in this opportunity to work. Today I have set out the support we can offer employers to recruit job-ready individuals, through local employment partnerships. Employers are offered a range of support from Jobcentre Plus designed to increase the effectiveness of their recruitment processes. In return we ask them to offer people who are often overlooked in the labour market a fair chance at a job. This can include wider use of work trials to enable individuals to demonstrate their suitability for a job and tailored pre-recruitment training to give people the skills employers need. Local employment partnerships represent an active partnership approach, enabling employers to find the right person for the job, available when they need them.

Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service to enable employers to access quality assured, impartial advice from skills brokers with expertise in their sector to help identify skills needs at all levels and source training solutions that meet those needs. Government funding will sit alongside the employer's own financial contribution and include: fully funded literacy, numeracy, and first full level 2 qualification training for employees who need them; fully funded second full level 2 qualification training for new employees recruited from priority unemployed groups by employers signed up to local employment partnerships; and a contribution to help meet the costs of releasing employees to undertake agreed training for employers with fewer than 50 employees.

Accreditation of employer qualifications: the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is also announcing today the names of the first three companies which have been recognised to award their own qualifications in the national framework as part of the pilot announced in "World Class Skills" (*Official Report*, column 7181). They are Flybe, McDonald's and Network Rail. In addition, to date 24 companies have had their training accredited in partnership with awarding bodies and more are on the way. This means that some of the training undertaken by the employees in these companies is now a nationally recognised qualification benefiting the staff, their employers and the country as a whole. It is another clear example of businesses increasingly committing to improving the skills of their staff.

The Government will continue to support employers, providing the right framework for them and their employees to succeed. Continuing this partnership approach will enable us to unlock our nation's potential and secure a prosperous future for all.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence Services Commissioner/Interception of Communications Commissioner (Annual Report)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today laid before both Houses the annual reports for 2006 of the Intelligence Services Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson (HC 253), and the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Paul Kennedy (HC 252). Some sensitive information has been excluded from both reports in accordance with Sections 58(7) and 60(5) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

I am grateful to the commissioners for their reports and the work that has gone into preparing them.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 29 January 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Sky/ITV

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): On 24 May 2007, my predecessor referred British Sky Broadcasting Group plc's acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV plc to the Competition Commission under section 45(2) of the Enterprise Act. This meant the Competition Commission was required to undertake an investigation and to provide a report on the effects of the transaction on competition and also on its effects on the public interest consideration specified in the reference. This was the consideration set out in section 58(2C)(a) of the Enterprise Act relating to the need, in relation to every different audience in the United Kingdom (UK), for there to be a sufficient plurality of persons with control of the media enterprises serving that audience.

I received the Competition Commission's final report on this matter on 14 December 2007 and published it on 20 December 2007. That report contains the Competition Commission's decisions on:

whether a relevant merger situation has been created;

whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market of the United Kingdom;

whether, taking account only of any substantial lessening of competition and any admissible public interest consideration, that situation operates, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Competition Commission is also required to recommend appropriate remedies to address any effects it finds are adverse to the public interest.

The Competition Commission has decided that a relevant merger situation has been created and that it results in a substantial lessening of competition in the UK market for all television. I am required under section 54(7)(a) of the Enterprise Act, to accept these decisions. The Competition Commission has concluded that the transaction is not likely to result in effects adverse to the public interest as it relates to the public interest consideration specified in the reference. Accordingly, the Competition Commission has concluded that overall, the transaction may be expected to operate against the public interest.

The Competition Commission has concluded that two remedies would be effective in addressing the substantial lessening of competition arising from this merger. These are:

(i) full divestment of the whole of BSkyB's shareholding and

(ii) partial divestment with BSkyB being required to divest its shares down to a level below 7.5 per cent. combined with undertakings not to seek or accept representation on ITV's Board and not to re-acquire shares in ITV.

The Competition Commission has recommended the second of these on the grounds that partial divestment is less intrusive than full divestment and is, therefore, a more proportionate remedy.

I am now required to decide:

whether to make no finding at all in the case—which I can do only if I decide that the public interest consideration specified in the intervention notice is not relevant to a consideration of the merger situation concerned—in which circumstance, the case would return to the Competition Commission for them to take final decisions; or

whether to make an adverse public interest finding—noting that in reaching a decision on this, I am required by section 45(6) of the Act to treat any anti-competitive outcome as being adverse to the public interest unless the outcome is justified by a relevant public interest consideration; and

what action should be taken to remedy, mitigate or prevent any of the effects adverse to the public interest which may result from the relevant merger situation. In reaching this decision, it may be noted that under section 55(3) of the Enterprise Act, I am required in particular, to have replied to the Competition Commission's report and its recommendations on appropriate remedies.

I have today published my decisions in this case which are as follows:

the public interest consideration specified in the intervention notice set out in section 58(2C)(a) of the Act is relevant to a consideration of this case—meaning I am required to make a finding in this case;

I accept—as I am bound to—the Competition Commission's decisions that a relevant merger situation has been created and that it results in a substantial lessening of competition in the UK market for all television.

I accept the Competition Commission's conclusion that the transaction does not have an effect adverse to the public interest as it relates to the public interest consideration specified in the intervention notice—that being the one identified in section 58(2C)(a) of the Enterprise Act relating to the sufficient plurality of persons with control of media enterprises;

the transaction operates against the public interest taking account of the substantial lessening of competition within the UK market for all television;

I find that, in accordance with the Competition Commission's recommendations, the following remedies should be imposed: partial divestment of BSkyB's shares in ITV down to a level below 7.5 per cent. combined with undertakings not to seek or accept representation on ITV's board, not to divest the shares to an associated person and not to re-acquire shares in ITV.

In reaching my decisions in this matter, I have had regard to the provisions of the relevant legislation and have given careful consideration to the report I received from the Competition Commission, including the annexes to the report and summaries of the submissions made by the parties and by third parties that are contained in those reports. I have also considered carefully the additional representations my Department subsequently received from both the principal parties and from third parties. In relation to the appropriate time period within which the necessary divestment of shares should be completed, I considered the representations made to me, together with the recommendation on this matter contained in the Competition Commission's report sent to me on 14 December. My decision on this matter is consistent with the Competition Commission's recommendation which was excised from the published version of the report.

Under section 120 of the Enterprise Act 2002, any person aggrieved by this decision has four weeks within which to apply to the Competition Appeal Tribunal for a review of the decision.

I have separately decided to accept a request from BSkyB not to disclose to any party other than BSkyB the period of time within which the necessary divestment of shares is to be completed. BSkyB argued that wider disclosure of this information was not necessary and could be unduly prejudicial to their legitimate commercial interests. ITV argued conversely that the period should be made public. On balance, having consulted the Competition Commission and the Office of Fair Trading about their practice in similar cases and recognising there are arguments on both sides, I have decided it is right not to disclose the information. The specified divestment period will begin from the date that suitable divestment undertakings are finalised.

I have placed a copy of the full decision document in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels.

The chairman of the Council set out the Slovenian presidency work programme for the next six months. It includes: preparing for the CAP health check; progressing on the cotton support scheme; dairy quotas; work on amendments to the single common market organisation and the animal byproducts regulations; implementation of EU forest action plan; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and a stock recovery plan for herring in West Scotland.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a presidency compromise text on a package of measures designed to simplify the system of cross-compliance. I voted in favour of the compromised text as the package met our negotiating objectives including the abolition of the 10-month rule relating to land used by farmers to support their annual SPS payment claim.

The Council held a discussion, based on a presidency questionnaire, on the Commission's communication on the CAP health check. I welcomed the Commission's initiative as an important opportunity to further modernise the CAP and stressed need for greater ambition specifically in full decoupling and the dismantling of all market instruments.

Under any other business, the Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on the state of play in the WTO negotiations. The Council took note of an update provided by the Fisheries Commissioner on the discussions regarding the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritania.

Belgium, supported by a few member states, called on the Commission to find a solution to problems encountered with the new legal provisions for the withdrawal of surplus fruit and vegetables in the transitional year of 2008 following reform of the regime in 2007. The Agriculture Commissioner agreed to bring forward transitional measures to allow the free distribution of surplus fruit and vegetable to charitable institutions and schools.

JUSTICE

Ministry of Justice (Reorganisation)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today announcing a new structure for the Ministry of Justice which will help to deliver further improvements in our core aims: reducing re-offending and creating more efficient, effective offender management services in custody and the community; improving access to justice and the effective administration of the justice system; building an effective relationship with the judiciary and delivering constitutional reform; and working for a just and democratic society. The changes underline our commitment to public protection, strengthening closer working between prisons and probation and making the most of public funds while creating the right conditions for the delivery of the whole of the Ministry of Justice's wide agenda.

The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. It brought together the former responsibilities of the Department for Constitutional Affairs with the National Offender Management Service from the Home Office and the trilateral Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The new Department has a wide ranging remit with major delivery responsibilities for prisons and probation, the courts and tribunals, legal aid and more, as well as important policy responsibilities ranging from constitutional reform and devolution, democracy and human rights to the justice system. When the Department was set up, the then permanent secretary commissioned a review to develop proposals for a new structure and ways of working to equip the Department better to deliver on its aims and priorities.

Two further important pieces of work have fed into this review—Lord Carter's report on prisons, on which I reported to the House on 5 December 2007 (Official Report, column 827) and the work to develop a partnership relationship with the judiciary, which I reported to the House on 23 January 2008 (Official Report, column 54WS). The changes to the structure of the Ministry of Justice which I am announcing today are the fruit of all of this work. The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice will be providing further detail to staff about the changes.

The new top structure of the Department will come into place on 1 April with the more detailed changes being implemented over the next few months to provide a coherent structure for managing the Department's key challenges—on public protection and reducing re-offending, constitutional reform, and access to justice. This streamlined top structure and new ways of working will help the Department to implement Lord Carter's recommendations on offender management services, to take forward the new partnership relationship with the judiciary and to focus more clearly on its key policy and delivery challenges. We have taken a robust approach to removing duplication and improving efficiency.

A key element of these changes is to drive forward the next stage in offender management. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was created in 2004 and has already brought a greater degree of coherence to offender management. Re-offending rates are down, successful drug treatments and offending behaviour programmes are up, community payback is thriving, and prolific offenders and those posing a high risk of harm are now subject to end-to-end offender management. The structure I am announcing today will allow NOMS to build on this success and take forward Lord Carter's proposals for streamlining management structures and reducing overhead costs. We will bring NOMS and the Prison Service together, and streamline the headquarters so as to improve the focus on frontline delivery of prisons and probation and improve efficiency. The chief executive of the restructured NOMS will run public prisons and manage performance across the sector, through service level agreements and formal contracts with probation boards and trusts, private prisons and other service providers. Having commissioning and performance management for both prisons and probation in a single organisational structure will further drive forward joined-up offender management and deliver essential savings.

The new Director General for Criminal Justice and Offender Management Strategy will set the strategic direction for offender management and regulate the increasingly diverse range of providers and work with the judiciary on the proposals for a sentencing commission.

The chief executive of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform will report to this Director General, which will enable OCJR to strengthen joint working between the police, Crown Prosecution Service and HMCS together with prison, probation and youth justice services. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, my right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General and I have reaffirmed our commitment to OCJR continuing as a distinct trilateral team, supporting the three criminal justice departments and the National Criminal Justice Board as well as local criminal justice boards.

Changes to the regional organisation of offender management will be implemented on a phased basis to merge the roles of area manager in the prison service and regional offender managers in NOMS. A new single regional manager will commission prison and probation services, from public, private and third sector providers. These individuals will have authority to deliver national policies in ways which meet the needs of their regional contexts. And in turn, individual prison governors and probation boards and trusts will have the authority they need to determine how best to deliver what is required of them. We plan to introduce this structure in London and in Wales from April and complete these changes in all regions over the next 12 to 24 months.

A new Democracy, Constitution And Law Director General will bring together work on the governance of Britain agenda for constitutional reform, launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in a Green Paper last July, including a possible new British Bill of Rights and responsibilities, leading work on constitutional reform, democratic engagement, devolution and information management for government. It will also provide legal services to the Department and lead work on law reform policy.

Responsibilities for justice issues will be under a new Access to Justice Director General, who will lead a group which brings together the courts and tribunals with legal aid and regulation of the legal profession.

Under the new partnership model, which the Lord Chief Justice and I announced on 23 January a new board for HMCS, with an independent, non-executive chair, will hold the chief executive to account and facilitate the working of the new partnership relationship with the judiciary. HMCS staff will have a joint duty to the Lord Chief Justice and to me as Lord Chancellor for the effective and efficient operation of the courts. The Access to Justice Director General will ensure that the excellent work on streamlining the courts is linked more effectively with modernisation elsewhere in the justice system, including in legal aid and regulation of the legal profession.

Finally, a new Corporate Performance Director General will bring together the key cross-cutting functions in the Ministry of Justice to ensure that one of the largest Departments in Whitehall has cost-effective shared services and professional support.

The changes that the permanent secretary and I are announcing today set the high level structure for the Department. The new structure will provide the Department with a sharper focus on its key priorities, including public protection, reducing re-offending and improving relations with the judiciary, while streamlining leadership across the whole of the Department's agenda. The new structure will ensure a more joined-up approach to issues of justice and constitutional reform and with a clearer focus on efficiency through the removal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities. There is much work to be done on the detail of these changes before the top structure comes into effect in April. I know that our key partners will want to contribute their thoughts on how this should be done and the Department has set up an email address for comments over the next four weeks: communications@justice.gsi.gov.uk . I should, of course, be very happy to have comments from hon. and right hon. Members and noble Lords.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its valuable work and its latest annual report (Cm 7299). Following consultation with the Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies, I have today laid the report before the House. I have also laid before the House today the Government's response to this report (Cm 7300). Copies of the report and the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In addition, following appropriate consultation and in accordance with section 10 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994, I have appointed my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) as Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee. I am grateful to my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Paul Murphy) for his distinguished leadership of the Committee in providing effective and independent parliamentary oversight of the work of the security and intelligence agencies.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Women Not For Sale

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): In July 2007 the Ministers for Women set out their priorities.

Their second priority was tackling violence against women. This was to include tackling human trafficking of women for sexual exploitation and in particular, as well as deterring and punishing traffickers and warning and protecting women, tackling the demand side of human trafficking.

This Government are committed to tackling all aspects of the modern-day slavery which is human trafficking.

Today, the Government are publishing "Women Not For Sale", a report of research into small ads in local and regional newspapers advertising sexual services. The research found that:

> advertising women for sex is widespread in local and regional newspapers. Three quarters of the papers examined for the research carried advertisements for women or services offered by women. Local papers in every region in England carried advertisements for sex with women. Typically, these advertisements are sandwiched between innocuous advertisements for other services and goods;
>
> almost half of the papers examined for the research carried classified advertisements specifying the nationalities or origins of women. There was a particular focus on highlighting women from Asia, including South East Asia. Women were most likely to be described as Oriental, Chinese, Japanese or Thai, but a large range of nationalities—for example Indian, Pakistani, Italian, and Spanish—and origins such as East European and South American are used. British nationality is usually not specified.

Following a meeting of the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker), the Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Solicitor-General and myself with the Newspaper Society, we welcome the consultation and discussion that has taken place within this organisation. We welcome the new guidance which we expect the Newspaper Society will be issuing shortly to their members to help ensure that they do not unwittingly advertise brothels in which trafficked women are being exploited. Genuine businesses which advertise services in the personal classifieds should be unaffected by this.

The Home Office recently announced a six month review exploring what more the Government can do to tackle the demand for prostitution. This began with a visit to Sweden earlier this month by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) and the Solicitor-General, to explore how the Swedish legislation banning the sale of sex is enforced and its impact on the demand for prostitution. As well as any legislative changes, the review will consider the non-legislative options available to challenge exploitation of women by paying for sex.

In this work, the Ministers for Women will continue to work with and alongside Ministers in the Home Office, the Attorney-General's Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Copies of "Women Not For Sale" will be made available in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 30 January 2008

TREASURY

Financial Stability and Depositor Protection

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I am today laying before Parliament "Financial Stability and Depositor Protection: Strengthening the Framework" (Cm 7308). This consultation document sets out the views of the Government, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Bank of England, building on responses to the joint discussion paper, "Banking Reform—Protecting Depositors" published in October 2007. The Treasury Select Committee's report published on 26 January has informed the consultation document published today and I am grateful for its positive contribution.

Recent months have seen a period of sustained turbulence and instability in global financial markets, with financial firms across the world affected. A response to these episodes requires action, not only from the UK authorities, but also from international firms and institutions. The Government propose to bring forward legislation after consultation, alongside actions by the FSA and the Bank of England, to address five key objectives:

Strengthening the financial system

The interconnectedness and complexity of today's financial systems require international actions to increase stability and resilience, such as:

- improving and strengthening risk management by banks, including stress testing and liquidity management; and
- improving the functioning of securitisation markets including valuation and credit rating agencies.

Reducing the likelihood of banks failing

The high costs for the wider economy and society if a bank gets into difficulty require that further steps be taken to reduce the likelihood of this happening. It is proposed to:

- strengthen the regulatory and supervisory framework, including requirements for banks to provide information to the FSA at short notice and more formal regulation of payment systems;
- change the framework for provision and disclosure of liquidity assistance.

Reducing the impact of failing banks

It is neither possible nor desirable to prevent banks from failing in all circumstances. However, important new arrangements are proposed to enable failing banks to be dealt with in a way that minimises the potential impact on financial stability. These include:

- the introduction of a "special resolution regime" within which there would be a range of tools to resolve a failing bank in a more orderly manner, including an accelerated method to transfer its business to a healthy bank—a "bridge bank", deployment of a restructuring officer and a "bespoke bank insolvency procedure"; and
- proposals to ensure that banks have in place practical arrangements to lessen the impact of any failure.

Effective compensation arrangements

It is important that consumers have full confidence in, and understanding of, the compensation scheme in the event of a bank failing. To improve current arrangements we will consult on:

- a potential increase to the compensation limit for deposits, and the coverage of certain balances above the limit;
- making changes to enable the financial services compensation scheme to make payments within one week of a bank failing; and
- ways to increase consumer awareness of the scope and operation of the compensation scheme.

Strengthening the Bank of England and improving coordination between authorities

The current tripartite arrangements provide the appropriate framework for managing financial difficulties and crises. However, improvements to how these arrangements work in practice are required. Important changes will be made, including:

- providing the Bank of England's role in financial stability with a statutory footing and better governance arrangements in the Bank to support new statutory obligation; and
- strengthening the memorandum of understanding, applying lessons from the operation of COBR during crisis conditions, and improving external communications.

In addition, it is vital that co-operation across borders works effectively. Current market events have demonstrated both the benefits and the difficulties of achieving this. Work with international partners will continue to:

- improve co-ordination of approaches to international financial stability issues; and
- introduce early warning system on global financial risks, improve cross-border crisis management.

The Government are determined that their response is proportionate and appropriate, and will therefore consult actively on these proposals, seeking discussions with financial institutions, consumer representatives and counterparts from across the world to ensure that the final arrangements are effective and deliver the five objectives set out here.

I am also announcing today that the Queen has been pleased to approve, under the Bank of England Act 1998, that Mervyn King be reappointed Governor of the Bank of England for a period of five years when his present term of office expires on 30 June 2008. His leadership and experience will continue to prove invaluable to the Bank of England.

HEALTH

Correction to Written Answer

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I regret that the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Shailesh Vara) on 13 December 2007 (Official Report, columns 891w-892w) was incorrect.

The Health Protection Agency has confirmed that the data they supplied on the numbers of individuals diagnosed with chlamydia within the national chlamydia screening programme in tables 7 to10 were incorrect and reflected the total number of screens undertaken rather than the total number of people diagnosed with chlamydia.

Copies of the revised tables have been placed in the Library of the House.

Social Care (Eligibility)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) report laid before Parliament on 29 January highlighted inconsistencies in how eligibility criteria are being applied. In response I have asked CSCI to conduct a review.

I have written to Dame Denise Platt, chair of CSCI, outlining the terms of reference and a copy has been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Nationality and Immigration Services (Fees 2008-09)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): Last year the Government introduced a new strategic approach to charging for immigration and nationality services. This meant that we moved away from simple cost recovery fees in a number of areas, setting fees at levels that reflect the value of the service to the would-be migrant. Certain fees saw increases which will help contribute to the doubling of resource for enforcement activity over the next few years. As set out in the "Enforcement Strategy" published in March 2007, this resource will help to continue building on our success in strengthening our borders and to ensure and enforce compliance with the immigration laws by those who we allow to come to the UK.

The Government review fees for immigration and nationality services on a regular basis and make appropriate changes as necessary. We believe that significant increases are not necessary for 2008-09 but that we should continue to develop the strategic approach of setting fees on the basis of the value of the service.

Some fees will continue to be set at or below levels that reflect the administrative costs of the service. These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the negative procedure. Those fees that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service—either to allow us to set certain fees below cost recovery or to contribute to the true end-to-end costs of the immigration system—must also be specified in regulations before both Houses, but are subject to the affirmative process.

Yesterday I laid regulations setting fees for certain areas of the immigration system, including the first parts of the new Points Based System to be implemented.

These regulations propose fees for applications for:

Tier 1- General leave to remain;

A licence to sponsor prospective migrants who will apply to come to the UK under Tier 2;

Certain existing entry clearance routes;

Certificates of entitlement of right of abode.

These fees are set above normal cost recovery levels.

Today I am announcing our proposals for all the immigration and nationality fees we intend to charge during 2008-09 in order that Parliament may consider fee regulations made yesterday in context.

We will make regulations setting out other proposed fees for appropriate scrutiny by Parliament shortly before implementation, including for the rest of the Points Based System and for biometric ID cards.

Fees for new services under the Points Based System are proposed at broadly the same level as their existing comparator services. We do not intend to make further changes in 2008-09 to fees charged for applications made in the UK, including where a biometric ID card is to be issued to a successful applicant.

A full table of fees proposed for 2008-09 is set out below.

SERVICE	*2007-08—fee £*	*Proposed fee £*
Non-PBS Routes—Migrant Outside UK		
Work Permit visa	200	205
Visitor visa —long -term	200	205
Settlement visa	500	515
Other visa	200	205
Certificate of Entitlement	200	205
Visitor visa	63	65
Settlement visa	500	515
Direct Airside Transit Visa	44	45
Non- PBS Routes— Migrant Inside UK		
Travel Documents Adult	66	72
Travel Documents Child	45	46

Current Service	*Proposed New Service*	*Current fee £*	*Proposed fee £*
PBS Routes—Migrant outside UK			
Highly Skilled Migrant Programme Approval	T1 (General)	400	600
Long-term Visa	T1 (General)	200	600
Long-term Visa	T1 (transition)	200	200
PBS Routes—Migrant inside UK			
HSMP approval (switching)	T1 (General)—Postal	400	750
HSMP LTR (switching)	T1 (General)—Postal	350	750
HSMP LTR	T1 (General)—Postal	350	750
N/A	T1 (General)—PEO	N/A	950
HSMP LTR	T1 (transition)—Postal	350	350
PBS Sponsorship			
N/A	T2 Sponsor licence—Small business / charity	N/A	300
N/A	T2 Sponsor licence—Medium/large Business	N/A	1000

NB—These are indicative fees that we propose to charge but are subject to change until they are approved by Parliament.

Fee Levels for other Applications that will Remain the Same

SERVICE	*2008-09 fee £*
Student Visa	99
Permit free visa	99
ILR Postal	750
ILR PEO	950
Highly Skilled Migrant Programme approval	400
Business Case Unit LTR	750
Work Permit	190
Leave to remain Work Permit Postal	350

Fee Levels for other Applications that will Remain the Same

SERVICE	*2008-09 fee £*
Leave to remain Work Permit PEO	550
Workers Registration Scheme	90
Leave to Remain Non Student Postal	395
Leave to Remain Non Student PEO	595
Leave to Remain Student Postal	295
Leave to Remain Student PEO	500
Certificate of Approval	295
Transfer of Conditions Postal	160
Transfer of Conditions PEO	500
Travel Documents Adult CID	210
Travel Documents Child CID	130
Nationality 6 (1) Single	575
Nationality 6 (1) Joint	575
Nationality 6 (2) Others	575
Nationality Registration Adult	400
Nationality Registration Single Minors	400
Nationality Registration Multiple Minors	400
Renunciation of Nationality	385
Nationality Right of Abode	135
Re-issued Certificates of Nationality	20

Proposed Fee Levels for Other New Services that will be Set in Subsequent Regulations

Current Service	*Proposed New Service*	*07/08 fee £*	*Proposed fee £*
PBS RoutesMigrant outside UK			
Long-term Visa	T1 (Innovators)	200	200
Long-term Visa	T1 (Post Study)	200	205
Work Permit Visa	T2	200	205
Student Visa	T4	99	99
Performer, sports or voluntary worker visa	T5	99-200	99
PBS Routes—Migrant inside UK			
Business Case Unit LTR	T1 (Innovators) - Postal	750	750
N/A	T1 (Innovators) - PEO	N/A	950
Leave to Remain Non-Student Postal	T1 (Post Study) - Postal	395	400
Leave to Remain Non-Student PEO	T1 (Post Study) - PEO	595	600
Leave to Remain—WP employment Postal	T2—Postal	350	400
Leave to Remain—WP employment PEO	T2—PEO	550	600
Leave to Remain Student Postal	T4—Postal	295	295
Leave to Remain Student PEO	T4—PEO	500	500
Leave to Remain Non-Student Postal	T5 - Postal	395	100
Leave to Remain Non-Student PEO	T5—PEO	595	500
PBS Sponsorship			
N/A	T4 Sponsor Licence	N/A	400
N/A	T5 Sponsor Licence	N/A	400
N/A	T2 & 4 Sponsor Licence—Small business	N/A	400
N/A	T2 & 4 Sponsor Licence—Medium/large Business	N/A	1000
N/A	T2 & 5 Sponsor Licence—Small business /charity	N/A	400
N/A	T2 & 5 Sponsor Licence —Medium/large business	N/A	1000
N/A	T4 & 5 Sponsor Licence	N/A	400
N/A	T2, 4 & 5 Sponsor Licence—Small business /charity	N/A	400
N/A	T2, 4 & 5 Licence—Medium/large business	N/A	1000
Work Permit	T2 Certificate of Sponsorship	190	170
N/A	T4 Certificate of Sponsorship	N/A	10
N/A	T5 Certificate of Sponsorship	N/A	10
New Services			
Biometric ID cards		—	£30

These are indicative fees that we propose to charge but are subject to change. Final proposed fees for each Tier, including sponsorship, will be set in subsequent regulations as the Points Based System is rolled out, and will not be final until they are approved by Parliament.

TRANSPORT

Rolling Stock

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am today publishing a rolling stock plan updating on how the extra capacity promised in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", (Cm 7176) will be delivered.

The White Paper set out ambitious plans for the growth and development of our railways over the next 30 years. It included a high level output specification (HLOS) showing what specific improvements the Government want to buy from the industry from 2009 to 2014. The HLOS set out our requirements for a safer and more punctual railway and a big increase in capacity. Passenger numbers have grown by an unprecedented 40 per cent. over the last decade. We want to create the capacity to support and encourage further growth. Over £10 billion will be invested in extra capacity between 2009 and 2014, including investment in major schemes, such as Thameslink.

Today's plan confirms that some 1300 extra carriages will be introduced—an increase of around 10 per cent. of the passenger rolling stock fleet. Over 300 of these will address the growth in demand in cities such as Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.

In some areas, the extra capacity will be secured through the procurement of new rolling stock, and in other areas it will be secured through redeploying existing rolling stock which is displaced by new. Indicative numbers of additional vehicles, required to meet the capacity targets set out in HLOS, are set out, by Train Operating Company, in the rolling stock plan.

Publishing our baseline allocation of the 1300 carriages today, is an important step forward that will aid joint industry planning. It will enable Network Rail to take forward detailed planning of infrastructure enhancements, such as longer platforms, to allow the introduction of longer trains.

Much of the extra rolling stock will be introduced through variations to current franchises. This plan will now form the basis of detailed discussions with the industry. Emerging proposals will be examined and assessed to determine value for money and affordability.

Copies of the document have been placed in the House Libraries and are available on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 31 January 2008

TREASURY

Asset Freezing Regime (October - December 2007)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): In a written ministerial statement of 10 October 2006, the previous Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset freezing regime. This is the fifth of these reports and covers the period October-December 2007.[1]

DEDICATED ASSET FREEZING UNIT

In "The Financial Challenge to Crime and Terrorism", published in February 2007, the Treasury announced that it would be setting up a dedicated asset freezing unit which, acting in response to advice from law enforcement and security agencies, will increase the resources and operational focus that the Government are able to bring to bear on asset freezing. The Treasury's asset freezing unit became operational on 24 October 2007.

ASSET FREEZING DESIGNATIONS

In the quarter October-December 2007, the Treasury made six domestic designations under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

None of these were persons already designated under earlier Orders.

The Terrorism Order and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Order provide, where appropriate, for designations to be made confidentially and with restricted circulation of notice.

No persons were designated on this basis in this quarter.

No persons were designated on the basis of closed source material provided by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

There were no financial sanctions listings at the EU or the UN in relation to terrorism or Al-Qaida and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

A total of 288 separate accounts containing approximately £1.4 million[2] of suspected terrorist funds are currently frozen in the UK.

REVIEWS

The Treasury keeps domestic asset freezing cases under review. A number of formal reviews have been initiated in this quarter and the review of five cases was completed. In four cases a decision was taken to de-list the designated person and in one case the designation was continued.

LICENSING

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued:

11 listed persons were granted legal expenses licences.

17 listed persons were granted basic expenses licences—two of which were for benefits payments; and

No listed persons were granted extraordinary expenses licences.

In addition, the households of four listed persons were granted benefits licences in accordance with the policy set out in the previous Economic Secretary's statement of 3 July 2006 to Parliament.

Tax Avoidance

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): Recent disclosures to HM Revenue and Customs indicate that individuals are claiming relief against income tax for manufactured payments that are paid using tax avoidance schemes and that substantial sums of tax are at risk.,

Tax avoidance is unfair on the majority of taxpayers and can undermine the funding of public services. The Government are determined to take appropriate and prompt action to counter avoidance. Therefore the Government propose to introduce appropriate legislation in Finance Bill 2008 that will be effective from today, 31 January 2008.

A draft of the material that will be contained in Finance Bill 2008, together with draft explanatory notes and background material, will be published today on HMRC's website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Aviation Taxation

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): I am announcing today the publication of a consultation document on reforming the taxation of aviation. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer made the announcement at pre-Budget report 2007 that air passenger duty was to be replaced by a duty paid per plane. This reform will send better environmental signals, encourage the more efficient use of aircraft and ensure aviation makes a greater contribution to both environmental costs and the public finances.

This consultation document sets out options for the detailed design of the new per plane duty, puts forward a number of proposals for how it would operate, and seeks the views of stakeholders on these proposed options. The formal consultation period will run for twelve weeks from today and close on 24 April 2008.

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[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure represents the balance of the accounts at the time they were frozen and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Design issues to be considered include the basis of the duty, exemptions, general aviation, impact on the freight and transit—or transfer—industry and administrative details.

The consultation document has been deposited in the Libraries of the House and is available in the Vote Office and on the Treasury website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Budget Statement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I propose to deliver my Budget statement to the House on Wednesday 12 March.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Dedicated Schools Grant

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): I am announcing today the launch of a review of the distribution formula for dedicated schools grant (DSG).

In my statement to the House on 25 June 2007 I announced that although the DSG for 2008-11 would be distributed using the spend plus method, there would be a review of the formula for distributing school and early years funding with the aim of developing a single, transparent formula that would be available for use from 2011-12. A consultation on the terms of reference for the review was launched in August 2007. I am today publishing a summary of the responses to the consultation and placing a copy of that summary in the Library of the House. I am grateful to all those who responded to the consultation.

The overwhelming majority of respondents to the consultation—88 per cent.—supported the aims of the review and the need to introduce a formula for the distribution of DSG. Their view was that it would be unsustainable to continue with the spend plus methodology for the longer term.

The overarching aim of the review will be to produce a funding system that should support schools and local authorities to raise the educational achievement of all children and young people and to narrow the gap in educational achievement between all children, including those from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds. The resultant distribution formula for DSG should be based on the principles of transparency, simplicity and stability.

A number of respondents to the consultation suggested that consideration should be given to removing the ring-fence on the DSG and to the payment of school funding through general formula grant, with decisions on the level of schools expenditure taken locally. Over the past ten years the Government have invested record amounts in education. Overall per pupil funding, including capital funding, will reach £6,600 by 2011—nearly a three-fold cash increase since 1997 and more than double in real terms. This demonstrates our continuing commitment to raising standards for all young people, and we are determined that further increases in school funding should be spent in schools, so that we can meet our long-term aim that per pupil funding for schools should match the level of support available to children in independent day schools. Consequently the review will start from the premise that the ring-fence on DSG will remain. However the review will examine the scope for greater flexibility in the use of DSG to support the delivery of Every Child Matters outcomes and the implementation of the children's plan.

There will be a number of key themes to the review. We will carry out a needs led analysis to assess the feasibility of using this method to set the basic entitlement to funding that local authorities will receive for each of the pupils in their schools. We will look at the additional costs that should be taken into account in high wage areas and high housing cost areas, in co-ordination with the review of area costs recently announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and with the review of teachers' pay bands recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body. We will commission work to review the costs of educating pupils with additional educational needs (AEN). With the introduction of diplomas and the raising of the age of compulsory participation in education and training to 18, we will review the scope for working towards a common 14-19 funding system. Finally, we will also consider the scope for introducing incentives into the funding system, for example, to improve pupil progression.

I am writing to a range of partner organisations today to invite them to become members of a new DSG formula review group. The group will steer the work of the review and report its recommendations to Ministers. Special interest groups of stakeholders will be invited to attend meetings and submit papers on particular issues. The development phase of the review will continue until December 2009, followed by a consultation period from January to March 2010. The broad decisions from the review will be announced in July 2010, in preparation for the school funding settlement in autumn 2010 for 2011-12 onwards.

The Future of Rural Schools

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): I have today written to local authorities to remind them of our policy and guidance on rural schools. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme/BORONA Programme

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): This statement updates the House on the defence training review (DTR) rationalisation programme and BORONA programme following announcements made last year on DTR on 25 October 2007 (Official Report, column

15WS) and BORONA on 12 September 2007 (Official Report, column 122WS). The BORONA Programme will establish HQ ARRC, 1 Signal Brigade and 102 Logistics Brigade in enduring bases in the UK.

Work continues on DTR package 1, which aims to deliver training for engineering and communications and information systems at a new site at St Athan in South Wales. It is still anticipated that the Department will be in a position to consider the main investment decision in the spring of this year. As part of this work to secure contract signature as soon as possible for package 1, a programme of risk reduction work to the value of £9.5 million has been proposed with the Metrix consortium. A departmental minute outlining this activity was laid in the House on 29 January. The proposed activities will be focused on the property and the estate, in particular securing planning consent and development of the training solution. The cost of this work is included in Metrix's overall bid and is at no additional cost to the Department.

After reviewing further options for package 2, which aims to provide training for logistics and personnel administration, police and guarding, security, languages, intelligence and photography, it has become apparent that the Metrix consortium is not able to offer an affordable and acceptable package 2 solution and, as a consequence, the competition has been brought to a close. The decision has therefore been taken to remove provisional preferred bidder status from Metrix. This does not have any impact on the Department's commitment to the DTR programme, and particularly in pursuing a package 1 Metrix solution with vigour, but it does allow the Department to focus its efforts on alternative approaches for package 2, which are not legally constrained by the original terms of the procurement. These alternatives may continue to be open to Metrix and other potential industry partners. Options will continue to aim to rationalise and improve the estate, maintain the Department's commitment to its supervisory care responsibilities under the Blake agenda, and match the scale of investment in training modernisation to what is affordable. A further DTR update on both packages will be provided later this year after the appropriate investment decisions are made.

In addition, I wish to advise the House on defence estate solutions related to both the DTR and BORONA programmes. Following the announcement to release Princess Royal barracks, Deepcut, for disposal on 8 January 2008 (Official Report, column 7WS), and further work on the defence estate, an agreement has been reached that, in principle, the Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration (DCLPA) and the Director Royal Logistics Corps (DRLC) will relocate to Worthy Down and Southwick Park. This move, which will consolidate elements of DCLPA and logistics training already on these sites, will allow the closure of the Deepcut site, currently anticipated to be not before 2013.

A decision has also been taken that, under the BORONA Programme, both 1 Signal Brigade and 102 Logistics Brigade returning from Germany will move to Cosford. This will maintain a significant long-term defence presence on this site and continue to provide the associated benefits that this brings to the local community and to the West Midlands following the relocation of the DTR package 1 units currently based there. Furthermore, Metrix propose to establish a learning centre and design facility at the Cosford site which may also generate other business and employment opportunities for the local area.

The BORONA programme team (BPT) will now develop proposals to deliver construction and service requirements at Cosford. In addition, the BPT will also draw up detailed plans and undertake wide consultation with all interested parties, including local authorities, health, education and welfare providers as well as the trades unions. A key piece of this consultation work will involve communication and discussion with the German authorities and with our locally engaged workforce in Germany and their representatives. This detailed planning and consultation will review all possible options and will result in recommendations, including the actual timings of the moves, being made for a final investment decision in Spring 2009.

The implications of these moves on our people will continue to be handled sensitively and in full consultation with trade unions and staff. However, both of these estate solutions are still subject to the appropriate final investment decision being made, after which further updates will be announced.

Porton Down Veterans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Ministry of Defence has for some months been in discussions with solicitors representing a group of Porton Down veterans regarding compensation claims arising out of their participation in the programme of trials undertaken at the Chemical Defence Establishment during the cold war. I am pleased to report that an amicable settlement has now been reached with respect to these claims. This settlement is without admission of liability by the Ministry of Defence and involves the payment of a global sum of £3 million in full and final settlement of all claims made by the group.

The Government have in the past made clear the debt owed by the nation to those who took part in the trials at Porton Down designed to ensure that the United Kingdom had the defensive and deterrent capabilities to counter the real and horrific threat that chemical weapons would be used against our armed forces or civilian population, as they had against others; the security of the country rested on these trials and the contribution of those who took part in them.

The trials were in many cases conducted under considerable pressures of time as new threats emerged. The Government accept that there were aspects of the trials where there may have been shortcomings and where, in particular, the life or health of participants may have been put at risk. The Government sincerely apologise to those who may have been affected.

Mental Health Statistics

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I can inform the House that the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) will be publishing its second quarterly report recording figures on service personnel assessed with a mental disorder on its website at: www.dasa.mod.uk today. I shall also place copies in the Library of the House.

The findings, consistent with DASA's first report, show that the numbers of service personnel assessed with a mental disorder for the first time at one of our Departments of Community Mental Health in second quarter 2007 are low—around five per 1,000 strength, or 0.5 per cent. of the total armed forces population. The numbers of service personnel assessed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the first time during the same period are very low—around 0.3 per 1,000 strength or 0.03 per cent. of the total armed forces population. They indicate that while service personnel who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are more likely to be assessed with PTSD than those who served in more benign environments, the actual numbers of individuals affected (26 among those who had deployed, seven among those not deployed—and five cases where the deployment history could not be identified from centrally available patient records) are very low.

We take very seriously the risk of service personnel developing mental illness, and attach a high priority to ensuring that individuals have access to the appropriate advice and, if needed, treatment at the right time. We have measures in place to increase awareness at all levels, and to mitigate the development of operational stresses. We have mental health professionals available in theatre and are also increasingly using trauma risk management (TRiM)—a model of peer group mentoring—within the operational environment. Where further treatment is required, our mental health services back in the UK are configured to provide community-based mental health care within a military environment in line with national best practice.

For those who have left the armed forces, I made a joint announcement with the Department of Health in November, of the extension of priority treatment to all cases where an individual's doctor considers his condition may be due to service, and of the launch of the first of a number of pilots of a new community-based veterans' mental health service. This service will provide assessment and, where appropriate, treatment from experts in veterans' mental health. Veterans will be able to access the service directly or through their GP, ex-service organisations, the Veterans' Welfare Service, or Social Service departments. The pilots at the Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Healthcare Trust and Camden and Islington are now open, Cardiff, Middlesbrough, St. Austell and Scotland are due to follow. If the pilots prove successful, the model will be rolled out more widely across the UK.

As an interim measure, and to assist those veterans not in the catchment areas of one of the new community mental health pilots, we have expanded our medical assessment programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' hospital, London, to include assessments of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service from 1982 and whose GPs are concerned that they may not understand the military background of the condition or the appropriate treatment.

The MOD is the single biggest contributor to Combat Stress. Last year we gave them £2.5 million in fees for the care of individuals whose mental health conditions are accepted by the war pensions scheme as due to their military service. I recently announced a further increase of 45 per cent. in the rate of fees to be met by the Department. In cash terms, this sees the daily fee paid by the MOD to Combat Stress for the treatment of each eligible war pensioner increase from around £180 to around £260 a day. This represents a significant boost to the charity's finances. This substantial increase demonstrates the Department's continuing commitment to help Combat Stress play an appropriate part in treating veterans with mental health problems and will help Combat Stress deliver an enhanced capability to treat war pensioners.

The publication of the second results of our new method of collecting and analysing the mental health data demonstrates our continuing commitment to understanding the true relationship between service on deployed operations and mental ill-health and to making the results available to inform Parliament and the public.

I am confident that the more comprehensive quarterly reports will offer an increased understanding of psychiatric morbidity in the UK armed forces as the dataset grows over the coming years. It is our intent to publish subsequent quarterly reports on the same DASA website and to place a copy in the Library of the House as they become available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Care for Children in the Immigration System

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): Earlier this month I set out the ten key changes to Britain's border security and immigration system that we will deliver in 2008. As part of these reforms I said that it was important that we act more sensitively to the children in our care and to the victims of human trafficking. I would like therefore to update the House on measures being taken forward by the Border and Immigration Agency in relation to children.

First, I am pleased to announce to the House today the commencement of the public consultation exercise on the draft code of practice for keeping children safe from harm. The consultation will last for 12 weeks and copies of the consultation paper and the draft code of practice have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. As part of this consultation we will be talking to children to get their views.

The code will guide BIA in fulfilling its new legal duty to keep children safe from harm. In drafting it the Border and Immigration Agency has already consulted widely. During the period of the consultation Border and Immigration Agency officials will hold a series of conferences so that interest groups can express their concerns to us in detail and in their own words. These conferences will be devoted to the themes that have been put to us so far as important, such as children in detention, referrals to statutory agencies, and other key areas where children come into contact with our immigration system; as well as seeking to identify what can be learned from others. In particular there will be conferences on children's issues in each of the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Secondly, I am also today publishing the responses to the public consultation exercise "Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children". We have considered carefully the responses to this document and taken account of the clear consensus that central Government and local authorities need to work together to improve the way in which these children are referred to, cared for and supported by local authorities. Our main areas of reform in this area are:

Placing unaccompanied asylum seeking children a network of with specialist local authorities to ensure they receive the expert services they need.

Better procedures to assess age in order to ensure children and adults are not accommodated together. We will establish a working group with key stakeholders to gain consensus on how we move forward in this complex area of public policy.

Ensuring that we resolve a child's immigration status more quickly and therefore enable care planning to focus on integration or safe early return to the country of origin for unaccompanied young people.

Putting in place better procedures for identifying and supporting asylum seeking children who are the victims of trafficking paying particular attention to those who are at risk of going missing or at risk of further harm or exploitation. We will ensure that proposals around reform are developed in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Thirdly, I announced a review of the UK's reservation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child on 14 January. I know this review has been widely welcomed. I am therefore launching a consultation today to run in parallel with that on the code of practice. I wish to take full account of the views of others in deciding whether the time is now right to withdraw the reservation.

Security Industry Authority (Entitlement to Work in UK)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Crime Reduction (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Following the Home Secretary's statement of 13 December 2007, I would like to update the House on the latest position regarding the revocation of Security Industry Authority licences following immigration checks.

As the Home Secretary said in the statement on 13 December, the SIA contacted some 10,500 individuals to inform them they were minded to revoke their licences as a consequence of checks which indicated no right to work or where the SIA was not satisfied that the individual had the right to work. Licence holders had up to 21 days to respond to the SIA with further information challenging the intention to revoke, and a further 21 days in which to appeal to the magistrates or sheriff courts. Both of the 21 day periods have now elapsed.

Information is today being made available on the SIA's register of licence holders on some 7,000 individuals who have had their licences revoked. SIA will update its advice to employers. Some 3,000 challenges to the minded to revoke letter are currently being processed.

As the Home Secretary informed the House on 13 December, the SIA has been carrying out targeted enforcement activity in relation to illegal working in the security industry, focusing on visits to employers and workplaces where SIA checks suggest there may be a repeated use or significant presence of illegal migrant workers.

The SIA is screening and prioritising cases for investigation where employers have blatantly failed to comply with the law on the prevention of illegal working, and where individuals have committed criminal offences, including where this includes the use of false identities or forged documents. Individuals with adverse immigration records or who may pose a risk to the public are being prioritised for removal.

Police Firearms Use (England and Wales)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): The statistics for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 show that the number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 18,053.

The police discharged a conventional firearm in three incidents.

Armed response vehicles were deployed on 14,530 occasions and there were 6,728 authorised firearms officers in England and Wales.

Full details are set out in the tables below:

Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
TOTAL	*13991*	*14827*	*15657*	*15981*	*18891*	*18053*
AVON & SOMERSET	195	262	311	333	247	285
BEDFORDSHIRE	237	301	442	475	575	684
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	114	57	104	241	201	207
CHESHIRE	419	451	397	358	367	340
CLEVELAND	37	170	453	530	657	293
CITY OF LONDON	40	131	364	404	323	239
CUMBRIA	71	77	72	152	112	92
DERBYSHIRE	275	401	369	287	305	223
DEVON & CORNWALL	101	96	112	71	84	80
DORSET	184	193	231	223	263	354
DURHAM	89	83	156	144	291	340
ESSEX	323	312	275	296	432	245
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	165	185	127	176	229	280
GTR MANCHESTER	580	518	507	461	478	481
HAMPSHIRE	198	162	208	237	289	352
HERTFORDSHIRE	112	172	195	185	187	280
HUMBERSIDE	297	187	183	206	362	235
KENT	115	137	207	163	219	170

Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
LANCASHIRE	232	238	318	241	240	410
LEICESTERSHIRE	300	268	295	260	363	334
LINCOLNSHIRE	477	392	386	294	220	157
MERSEYSIDE	1020	628	751	733	669	727
METROPOLITAN	2447	3199	3563	2964	4711	3878
NORFOLK	175	200	178	195	175	153
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43	138	148	158	137	156
NORTHUMBRIA	1440	1275	1140	977	611	332
NORTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	147	185	183	282
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	384	452	459	408	394	289
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	258	463	484	546	749	737
STAFFORDSHIRE	232	281	255	216	171	250
SUFFOLK	163	270	251	153	202	256
SURREY	245	247	203	151	222	222
SUSSEX	248	204	280	187	190	201
THAMES VALLEY	179	167	195	289	427	264
WARWICKSHIRE	130	149	164	124	180	162
WEST MERCIA	117	91	197	162	122	155
WEST MIDLANDS	822	902	1377	1264	1044	1557
WEST YORKSHIRE	757	604	575	853	1335	1272
WILTSHIRE	45	58	63	88	139	226
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	51	63	72
GWENT	20	37	40	81	94	133
NORTH WALES	302	259	197	223	350	340
SOUTH WALES	283	281	250	236	279	308

Number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
TOTAL	*5776*	*5763*	*6096*	*6243*	*6584*	*6728*
AVON & SOMERSET	116	84	122	118	117	103
BEDFORDSHIRE	48	53	58	56	59	57
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	56	71	60	60	50	46
CHESHIRE	81	89	75	76	73	80
CLEVELAND	85	80	95	100	100	105
CITY OF LONDON	73	72	86	89	86	45
CUMBRIA	92	87	89	90	89	90
DERBYSHIRE	80	69	70	74	75	69
DEVON & CORNWALL	108	115	132	123	122	132
DORSET	57	59	60	64	62	67
DURHAM	86	102	97	103	100	102
ESSEX	180	184	186	202	205	220
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	71	80	82	93	92	94
GTR MANCHESTER	219	202	205	187	245	217
HAMPSHIRE	87	94	94	92	97	83
HERTFORDSHIRE	46	47	50	53	52	49
HUMBERSIDE	96	96	96	101	92	83
KENT	113	93	90	94	94	98
LANCASHIRE	138	129	122	115	123	103
LEICESTERSHIRE	69	68	51	53	59	67
LINCOLNSHIRE	91	87	78	86	87	75
MERSEYSIDE	78	84	94	93	129	139
METROPOLITAN	1805	1823	2060	2134	2331	2584
NORFOLK	104	109	114	125	119	127
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	51	56	52	50	56	59
NORTHUMBRIA	125	99	90	93	98	92
NORTH YORKSHIRE	66	64	60	56	78	67
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	136	131	138	138	149	146
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	92	100	98	122	116	118
STAFFORDSHIRE	71	63	67	76	70	82
SUFFOLK	90	80	96	88	84	78

Number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
SURREY	62	48	53	49	51	45
SUSSEX	120	141	134	130	129	129
THAMES VALLEY	156	180	172	176	180	186
WARWICKSHIRE	50	51	46	53	55	59
WEST MERCIA	125	ill1	139	141	152	133
WEST MIDLANDS	111	110	124	134	145	175
WEST YORKSHIRE	116	132	140	130	150	148
WILTSHIRE	71	78	80	74	72	69
DYFED POWYS	77	62	58	79	68	72
GWENT	57	60	71	74	86	64
NORTH WALES	83	75	73	65	57	56
SOUTH WALES	138	125	139	134	130	115

Number of Operations Involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
TOTAL	*11574*	*11848*	*13218*	*13137*	*14355*	*14530*
AVON & SOMERSET	173	215	249	312	167	192
BEDFORDSHIRE	172	269	414	419	534	654
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	43	45	155	172	160	172
CHESHIRE	523	337	356	773	807	793
CLEVELAND	13	63	86	154	285	290
CITY OF LONDON	39	131	364	275	234	183
CUMBRIA	53	45	65	134	90	72
DERBYSHIRE	253	363	312	254	257	183
DEVON & CORNWALL	76	32	94	54	54	76
DORSET	182	180	215	195	246	322
DURHAM	57	66	96	91	256	204
ESSEX	165	176	138	138	155	224
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	140	166	109	121	145	213
GTR MANCHESTER	528	406	440	364	306	214
HAMPSHIRE	116	108	128	167	178	270
HERTFORDSHIRE	81	129	157	155	160	226
HUMBERSIDE	273	170	158	184	335	232
KENT	89	132	193	124	183	373
LANCASHIRE	192	185	273	228	232	383
LEICESTERSHIRE	292	232	269	232	328	313
LINCOLNSHIRE	470	367	355	276	210	147
MERSEYSIDE	974	547	687	677	611	644
METROPOLITAN	1667	2447	2423	2322	2572	2770
NORFOLK	157	186	169	163	149	133
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	25	90	99	89	101	119
NORTHUMBRIA	1349	1204	1063	893	585	299
NORTH YORKSHIRE	60	67	110	144	208	268
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	333	397	404	336	342	256
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	221	280	372	438	632	522
STAFFORDSHIRE	208	241	212	183	154	222
SUFFOLK	116	160	194	119	149	204
SURREY	225	240	190	140	204	209
SUSSEX	189	171	250	163	162	165
THAMES VALLEY	174	167	179	265	355	227
WARWICKSHIRE	104	31	138	102	144	121
WEST MERCIA	100	111	241	152	94	120
WEST MIDLANDS	563	592	975	952	745	518
WEST YORKSHIRE	609	565	543	656	1040	1048
WILTSHIRE	43	39	28	54	124	190
DYFED POWYS	28	29	28	48	55	72
GWENT	16	16	23	74	85	109
NORTH WALES	265	198	153	180	299	295
SOUTH WALES	218	253	161	165	223	283

JUSTICE

Inquests (Operations and Exercises Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of service-men and women who have died overseas. The Government are very proud of our service men and women who have served in operations overseas. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for the job they have done, and are continuing to do. They risk their lives to protect the interests of the United Kingdom. With admirable courage and skill they help to build strong, stable and democratic nations. We honour those who have given their lives in this work, and we remain strongly committed to providing our best possible support to their families.

We made statements to the House on 5 June 2006 (Official Report, column 4WS), 12 October 2006 (Official Report, column 26WS), 18 December 2006 (Official Report, column 112WS), 29 March 2007 (Official Report, column 121WS) 20 June 2007 (Official Report, column 97WS) and 30 October 2007 (Official Report, column 36WS) with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and Swindon coroners. Today we are announcing progress which has been made since the written ministerial statement in October. This statement shows the position at 21 January, since when unfortunately there has been one further fatality in Afghanistan.

BACKGROUND

Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed and paid for by the relevant local authority. Their officers and staff are employed by the local authority and/or the police.

Each death of a service-man or woman killed in an operation overseas whose body is repatriated to England and Wales is subject to an inquest. The inquest—both the investigation into the death and the holding of the public hearing into the death—is conducted by the coroner with jurisdiction which derives from where the body lies.

In the case of deaths of service-men and women whose bodies were flown into RAF Brize Norton until it ceased being used for repatriations on 31 March 2007, the Oxfordshire coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, has had initial jurisdiction. In the case of deaths of service-men and women whose bodies have been flown into RAF Lyneham since 1 April 2007, the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, David Masters has initial jurisdiction.

In terms of the Coroners Act 1988, a coroner may transfer jurisdiction to another coroner. This may be done as long as the body lies within the district of the coroner transferring jurisdiction and provided the coroner to whom jurisdiction is transferred consents. Since late December 2006 the Oxfordshire coroner's practice was to transfer jurisdiction to coroners closer to the next of kin wherever possible; this practice has been continued by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner since 1 April 2007. Some inquests of deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan before December 2006 have also been transferred to other coroners.

PROGRESS WITH INQUESTS

At the time of the October 2007 written ministerial statement, we reported that since additional funding had been provided by the Government to assist the Oxfordshire coroner, 104 inquests had been held, 90 into the overseas deaths of service personnel and 14 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton.

Since October, a further 19 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel who died in operations overseas whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton or RAF Lyneham. This makes a total of 123 overseas military inquests held since June 2006.

Since hostilities opened there have been a total of 144 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan including one serviceman who died of his injuries in the UK. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

OPEN INQUESTS

(i) Pre-31 March 2007 Fatalities

There remain 41 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton prior to 31 March 2007. The Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction in 32 of these cases; 9 of these inquests have been transferred to coroners closer to the next of kin.

Hearing dates have been set in 22 cases. This includes the inquests into the deaths of 14 crew members who died together in the Nimrod crash on 2 September 2006 which will be heard together. In the remaining 19 inquests investigations are ongoing but it has not yet been possible for an inquest date to be set. The oldest individual military inquest for which no date has been set is that into the death of Lieutenant Palmer who died on 15 April 2006. The Board of Inquiry into Lieutenant Palmer's death is yet to report.

In addition there are 10 inquests into fatalities which were repatriated via RAF Lyneham prior to 1 April 2007. These relate to the deaths of 10 crew members who died together in the crash of Hercules XV179 on 30 January 2005. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, David Masters, held pre inquest hearings in February and November 2007 and the inquests will be heard together starting on 31 March.

(ii) Post-1 April 2007 Fatalities

Since October 2007, additional resources have been provided by the Government to ensure that a backlog of inquests will not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon jurisdiction now that fatalities are being repatriated via RAF Lyneham. These have enabled the coroner, Mr Masters, to engage an additional assistant deputy coroner together with an additional coroner's officer and administrative support and to provide appropriate accommodation to hold military inquests. These extra resources are helping to ensure that bereaved families are responded to sensitively and speedily following conclusions of the investigations. Mr Masters is continuing the practice of transferring military inquests to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, where possible.

There remain 58 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan whose bodies were repatriated after 1 April 2007. Of these, Mr Masters has retained 32 inquests whilst 26 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Inquest hearing dates have been set in 10 of these cases. In the remaining 48 investigations are ongoing but it has not yet been possible to set an inquest date.

(iii) Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain 5 inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries.

We are very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress through the remaining inquests. I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses which outline the status of all cases and date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

LIAISON WITH THE NEXT OF KIN

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress on the inquest of their deceased next of kin.

We have been working on better supporting bereaved military families. The written ministerial statement issued on 7 June 2007 by the then Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram), gives details of the support which is now being provided and we continue to look for opportunities to improve our procedures. A new booklet has just been produced, to help explain inquest and board of inquiry procedures to bereaved families.

Prison Policy

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Following the Government's response to the report by Lord Carter of Coles into the long-term supply and demand of prison places in 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 827, I would like to provide the House with an update on progress to date. Prison Policy Update—Briefing Paper, outlining further detail on today's announcements and an update on the supply measures which we are putting in place following Lord Carter of Coles' report is published on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The Briefing Paper sets out progress so far on the prison building programme announced in December. We announced then that we would provide a further 10,500 prison places on top of the 9,500 place programme previously announced. This will lead to a net increase in prison places of 15,000 by 2014. This year alone 2,500 new prison places will be delivered, of which more than 1,000 will be operational before the end of April. A further 1,600 is planned for 2009.

The paper also sets out details on how "Titan" prisons will work. We plan to build up to three Titan prisons by 2014 and a consultation on the design of such complexes will begin in April. This will build on the success of clustering small prisons together, for example at the Isle of Sheppey. We are starting to identify suitable sites for Titans, housing 2,500 prisoners each, in the south-east, west midlands and the north-west. We are also launching a competition for a new prison ship and have begun a consultation for a new prison at the former RAF Coltishall airfield.

The announcements I am making today signal a major drive to overcome some of the barriers to the rehabilitation of offenders. Our primary aim in doing so is further to aid the work we are already doing on cutting reoffending. These measures are focused on tackling drug use among offenders and providing opportunities for offenders to learn the new skills which might help them to a life away from crime outside prison.

These announcements are framed by a sense of what the community can expect from those who break the law. We will provide opportunities for offenders to learn the skills which will present the hope of a new life upon release, but in return we will set out what the community expects from those offenders who take up these opportunities. I have asked my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Prisons (David Hanson) to bring forward proposals for a clearer "contract" between offenders and the community.

In the meantime, I am announcing today a range of new measures on prison work and industries, on tackling drugs and on community justice. These build on the announcements we made in response to Lord Carter of Coles' review of prisons, including Lord Bradley's review of mental health issues.

First, we will increase the range of constructive work available to offenders inside prison, and in turn their job opportunities on the outside. We have an existing corporate alliance with more than 70 employers, in addition to those working in individual prisons and probation areas, but the Government are now committed to expanding this programme significantly. With ministerial colleagues from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Prisons will shortly host a forum with leading figures from the private and third sectors to bring in more partners to provide prison training workshops.

Today we are also announcing the launch of a major new scheme at HMP Wandsworth, (with Cisco, Bovis Lend Lease and Panduit) to train prisoners in installing voice and data cabling. Providing enhanced vocational training to prisoners is instrumental in helping offenders turn away from crime, and giving them back a sense of stability, discipline and responsibility.

Secondly, we are taking further steps to tackle drug use in prison and in the community against a background over the last few years of a 10-fold increase in investment in drugs work in prisons and a two-thirds fall in the number of prisoners testing positive for drugs in prison (from 24 per cent. in 1996-97 to 8.8 per cent. in 2006-07). But we are clear that we have to go further. This drive against drugs will cover both drug treatment programmes in prisons and the control of drugs in prisons, and will be jointly headed by two senior figures with relevant experience in each area, who will be announced shortly.

Ministers are urgently considering what further measures we need to take over controlling the supply of drugs into prisons, such as reviewing the criteria for open/closed visits across the prison estate, with a particular focus on local prisons. This will also look at introducing more rigorous searches, including the provision of more sniffer/search dogs.

As well as stamping out the supply of drugs, we are helping offenders kick the habit in prison. By April, 29 prisons will have introduced the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), and I am pleased to announce that with the Department of Health we will be extending this scheme to a further 20 prisons over the next 12 months. IDTS provides better clinical services (funded by the Department of Health), such as improved detoxification programmes and greater continuity of care between the community and prisons, between prisons, and on release into the community, as well as helping offenders to address some of the deeper roots of their drug abuse. Alongside this, we will also consider extending the number of drug-free wings where prisoners can access increased rehabilitation and support separate from known drug users.

In the community, we are increasing the provision of current community sentences that specifically target and intensively supervise offenders with a drug misuse problem by 1,000 next year. These are known as Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR). The aim of the DRR, which involves treatment, regular testing and court reviews of progress and rigorous enforcement, is to get offenders to stop offending, with the longer term aim of getting them off drugs for good.

Thirdly, many offenders come from chaotic backgrounds, their lives ruined by the pernicious cycle of crime and drug abuse. Subject to the current evaluation of the Leeds and west London pilots, we will extend our successful dedicated drug courts to four further areas, in which courts look to address the causes of offending along with the offence.

We will also bring forward pilots of models for court diversion and reviewable community orders for those with mental health issues. These will be based on models in the American and Australian jurisdictions. Problem solving approaches applied to mental health builds upon experience developed within HMCS relating to community justice, domestic violence courts and drugs court pilots, all aimed at ensuring that the courts respond effectively to problems in the criminal justice system.

For many offenders on sentences of less than 12 months, community-based punishments are proven to be more effective at reducing reoffending than short prison terms. Therefore, we will fund at least six intensive alternatives to custody projects with new investment of £13.9 million over the next three years. The first such project will begin in Derbyshire in March, and will include a combination of unpaid work, electronic monitoring, behaviour programmes, mentoring, and help with resettlement, all under intensive supervision. More than 6 million hours of unpaid work are already carried out in the community each year. With the Department for Communities and Local Government we will further build on community payback, such as through options like citizen's panels to decide on which projects offenders should undertake in their local area.

Today's announcements should be set in the context of an impressive criminal justice record. This is the first post-war administration to preside over a sustained and substantial reduction in crime. The latest British Crime Survey/Recorded Crime Statistics demonstrated that overall crime has fallen a third since 1997, while the chances of being a victim of crime are the lowest since accurate recording began 27 years ago.

During the past decade more than 20,000 prison places have been provided due to more offenders being brought to justice, including 60 per cent. more violent and dangerous offenders, and being sentenced for longer. We are fully committed to providing a net further 15,000 places by 2014. Meanwhile, prisons and the prison regime are almost unrecognisable from the institutions of 10 to 15 years ago. In spite of the pressures the prisons are under, they continue to be much more decent, humane and constructive places.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 1 February 2008

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor—the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts—announced this week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 February;

Mid-Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust;
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust;
Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust;
Tameside and Glossop NHS Trust; and
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 88. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government remains committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 4 February 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

14-19 Diplomas

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The first five new diplomas will be available from September 2008 and will be in construction and the built environment, creative and media, engineering, information technology, and society, health and development. We announced last March that over 800 schools and over 150 colleges would be in the first consortia offering 14-19 Diplomas from September 2008.

A breakdown of consortia offering the first five lines by region and local authority is shown in table 1. The forecast first year diploma funding for each region in 2008-09 is set out in table 2, subject to final pupil numbers for each region.

The next five diplomas will be available from September 2009 and will be in manufacturing and product design, business, administration and finance, land-based and environmental studies, hair and beauty, and hospitality. We can now announce that two thirds of all secondary schools and three quarters of colleges in England have applied to offer these five new diplomas, plus the first five diplomas, as part of consortia from September 2009.

These figures show that diplomas are proving a popular choice for schools and colleges. Diplomas will offer learners a new route into further and higher education as well as into skilled work. In December, the independent organisation UCAS announced that the points value of the advanced diploma will be the same as that awarded for three and a half A levels.

Consortia Readines Assessment (January 2008)

Go	*Local Authority*	*No. of Consortia in LA*	*No. of Schools in Consortium*	*No. of Colleges in Consortium in LA*
EE	Cambridgeshire	1	7	2
EE	Hertfordshire	3	28	3
EE	Luton	1	6	1
EE	Norfolk	2	9	1
EE	Southend-on-Sea	1	5	1
EE	Suffolk	1	4	1
EM	Derby	1	2	1
EM	Nottingham	1	11	4
EM	Derbyshire	1	4	0
EM	Leicestershire	2	10	2
EM	Lincolnshire	6	25	5
EM	Northamptonshire	3	9	3
EM	Nottinghamshire	4	30	5
EM	Rutland	1	2	2
L	Barking and Dagenham	1	8	1
L	Bromley	1	5	1
L	Croydon	1	4	2
L	Ealing	1	17	2
L	Hackney	3	6	5
L	Hammersmith and Fulham	1	3	0
L	Haringey	1	3	0
L	Harrow	1	4	1
L	Hillingdon	1	8	1
L	Hounslow	1	3	0
L	Islington	1	8	1
L	Lambeth	1	7	2
L	Lewisham	1	6	2
L	Newham	1	15	2
L	Southwark	1	6	2
L	Tower Hamlets	1	6	1
L	Waltham Forest	1	18	3
L	Wandsworth	1	3	1
NE	Durham	1	1	1
NE	Gateshead	1	1	1
NE	Hartlepool	1	2	1
NE	Middlesbrough	1	4	1
NE	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	1	6	1
NE	North Tyneside	1	11	1
NE	Sunderland	1	18	1
NW	Blackburn with Darwen	1	1	1
NW	Bolton	1	11	2
NW	Bury	1	7	1
NW	Cheshire	3	16	2
NW	Cumbria	1	9	2
NW	Halton	1	6	1
NW	Knowsley	1	7	1
NW	Lancashire	4	21	5
NW	Liverpool	1	8	1
NW	Manchester	1	11	2
NW	Oldham	1	5	1
NW	Rochdale	1	3	1
NW	Salford	1	10	3
NW	Sefton	1	3	1
NW	St. Helens	1	3	2
NW	Tameside	1	5	1
NW	Trafford	1	3	0
NW	Warrington	1	4	2
SE	Brighton and Hove	1	10	2
SE	Buckinghamshire	2	2	1
SE	East Sussex	5	5	1
SE	Hampshire	3	24	4
SE	Kent	4	13	3
SE	Medway	1	11	2
SE	Milton Keynes	1	3	1
SE	Oxfordshire	2	6	1
SE	Reading	1	6	0
SE	Surrey	5	19	5
SE	West Sussex	2	3	2

Consortia Readines Assessment (January 2008)

Go	*Local Authority*	*No. of Consortia in LA*	*No. of Schools in Consortium*	*No. of Colleges in Consortium in LA*
SW	Plymouth	1	9	1
SW	Cornwall	1	8	2
SW	Dorset	3	13	5
SW	Gloucestershire	1	2	1
SW	North Somerset	1	14	1
SW	Somerset	1	4	1
SW	South Gloucestershire	1	6	1
SW	Swindon	1	8	1
SW	Torbay	1	2	1
SW	Wiltshire	1	3	1
WM	Birmingham	4	21	6
WM	Coventry	2	6	1
WM	Dudley	1	3	1
WM	Shropshire	1	2	1
WM	Solihull	1	6	2
WM	Staffordshire	3	10	1
WM	Stoke-on-Trent	1	7	1
WM	Walsall	1	2	1
WM	Wolverhampton	1	13	1
WM	Worcestershire	2	16	1
Y&H	Barnsley	1	8	2
Y&H	Bradford	1	7	1
Y&H	Calderdale	1	10	1
Y&H	Kingston-upon-Hull	1	15	3
Y&H	York	1	6	1
Y&H	Kirklees	1	27	4
Y&H	Leeds	2	15	2
Y&H	North East Lincolnshire	1	2	0
Y&H	North Yorkshire	1	4	0
Y&H	Rotherham	1	6	1
Y&H	Sheffield	1	17	2
Y&H	Wakefield	1	1	0

Consortia Readines Assessment (January 2008)

Local Authority	*No of Consortia in Government Office Region*	*No of Schools in Consortium in Government Office Region*	*No of Colleges in Consortium in Government Office Region*	*Key Stage 4 funding for Diplomas in Government Office Region*
East of England	9	59	9	£2.3m
East Midlands	19	93	22	£2.6m
London	20	130	27	£5.2m
North-East	7	43	7	£1.4m
North -West	23	133	29	£4.3m
South-East	27	102	22	£3.5m
South-West	12	61	13	£3.3m
West Midlands	17	86	16	£2. 1m
Yorkshire and The Humber	13	118	17	£1.8m

NB. Figures shown above are based upon early estimates of student take up of Diplomas. When take up numbers have been confirmed the funding may change accordingly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission on Integration and Cohesion

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Today I am publishing the Government's response to the "Commission on Integration and Cohesion". Copies of the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In August 2006 the Government asked Darra Singh, the chief executive of Ealing council, to chair a commission examining the issues of integration and cohesion—how, in the light of concerns about communities living "parallel lives", of changing patterns of migration, and of new technologies transforming the way people interact with each other, Government can help build strong communities where neighbours feel at ease, share a sense of belonging, and have the opportunity to work together to shape the future of the place where they live.

In June 2007, the Commission delivered a serious and ambitious report based on in depth consultation. It set out practical proposals for building cohesion and integration at a local level and contained a number of specific recommendations for Government.

The report has already influenced a range of policies, changing the debate about how best to bring people of different backgrounds together and empower them to influence the decisions which affect their lives.

Today, I am pleased to set out in detail my response to all 57 of the Commission's recommendations—what we have already done, what we will do in the future and how we will further develop the Commission's ideas.

It sets out a new clarity on, and commitment to, delivering cohesive and integrated communities, backed by increased investment in cohesion of some £50 million over the next three years, and a new public service agreement to drive practical action across Government.

At the heart of the Government's approach, like the Commission's, is the principle that cohesion can only be understood and built locally. Central Government's role is to set the national framework within which local authorities and their partners can deliver improvements to cohesion.

Our response sets out how we will support this local delivery through six key principles:

1) a move away from a "one size fits all" approach;

2) mainstreaming of cohesion into wider policy areas;

3) a national framework for local support and guidance; including establishing specialist cohesion teams to provide support to local authorities facing cohesion challenges and giving local authorities a tool to assess the impact their planned activities will have on cohesion;

4) integration of new migrants and existing communities; starting with new guidance for local authorities on developing information packs for migrants;

5) building positive relationships; to this end we are today also publishing a consultation on "Guidance for Funders", which encourages local authorities to consider how funding can be better used to support greater interaction and;

6) sharing lessons about what works;

I am grateful to Darra Singh and his Commissioners for their hard work. With this response the Government are demonstrating their commitment to maintaining the momentum the report has created and helping build stronger communities where all individuals, no matter what their background, feel a sense of shared belonging, and can work with their neighbours to shape a better future for the place where they live.

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 7 January 2008, the Department published a statement on its website about the local authority business growth incentives scheme:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/Finance/labgi/statemtyr3pay.pdf

This indicated that, following further consideration of the new legal challenges that have been made against the current LABGI scheme and the inherent uncertainty this causes to the remaining LABGI pot, the Government intended to reconsider all aspects of the approach used to distribute resources available for Year 3 of the LABGI scheme.

Alongside our reconsideration of the Year 3 scheme, the Government have reconsidered the payments for Years 1 and 2 of LABGI, which were made on the basis of a number of Valuation Office Agency rateable value "change codes". We have taken the view that there are a number of Valuation Office Agency change codes that have not previously been used in LABGI calculations, which could contain elements of business growth. In light of this, and to avoid the additional delay and uncertainty caused by further legal challenge, the Government proposes to reward authorities on the basis of a wider set of codes than has so far been the case for Years 1 and 2. I will set out the details shortly.

The Government is still finalising its analysis of options for allocating the resources available for Year 3 of the scheme. We continue to be convinced of the value of providing incentives to encourage business growth, a view echoed by the great majority of the responses to our recent issues paper on the reform of the LABGI scheme, "Building Better Incentives for Local Economic Growth: Reforms to the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme". We also remain determined to try to achieve this policy aim for LABGI. However, the inclination of a small number of authorities to pursue legal action has created greater complexity, uncertainty and delay. Given this, it will be necessary to retain a portion of the Year 3 funding as a contingency in this final year of the current scheme. I will make an announcement on Year 3 methodology and the size of the contingency retained as soon as possible.

Supporting People

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): The Government are today confirming final programme grant allocations to administering authorities for the Supporting People programme in 2008-09. The programme funds housing-related support services for over 1 million vulnerable people—including victims of domestic violence, teenage parents, older people and those with mental health problems—enabling them to live independently in their accommodation. The Government have invested £8.7 billion since the Supporting People programme began in 2003 and announced a further £4.9 billion of funding for the next three years. Final allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be confirmed by a further statement to the House closer to the beginning of those financial years. In line with the Government's policy on three-year settlements, it is not intended that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 indicative allocations will be changed from those published on 6 December, other than in exceptional circumstances.

The refreshed consultation on the Supporting People distribution formula closed in January 2008. Following consideration of the responses, we are today confirming final allocations for 2008-09 and publishing our response to that consultation on the Department's website.

This three-year settlement, alongside a radically slimmed-down performance framework, will provide authorities with stability for the future and greater flexibility to budget and plan realistic delivery of housing support services.

A table of Supporting People final programme grant allocations for 2008-09 and a copy of the consultation response have today been placed in the Library of the House. The consultation response will be available on Communities and Local Government's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/distributionformularesponses.

DEFENCE

Operation Telic/Operation Herrick/Revised Seriously Injured Casualty Data

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): Following a review of published operational casualty data to align current and historical methods of statistical recording, the number of casualties categorised as seriously injured (SI) (excluding natural cause) on Operation Herrick for 2006 has increased by one from 12 to 13. The number of Operation Telic casualties categorised as SI (excluding natural cause) for 2006 has increased by two from 19 to 21. There have been no changes to the number of very seriously injured (VSI) casualties in either operation. These changes bring the total number of SI casualties (excluding natural cause) for Operation Herrick to 57 and Operation Telic to 144 up to 31 December 2007.

The statistics on casualty severity which are published on the MOD internet site exclude those individuals whose condition was recorded as due to a natural cause. In a very small number of cases, however, it is not possible to confirm whether individuals are suffering from injury or disease. When casualty reporting on the MOD internet site was first established in early 2006, cases where there was uncertainty over the cause were excluded from the published statistics. However, during an exercise last year to validate and publish retrospective data for the period 2001 to 2005 for the first time, it was decided that such cases, where there is uncertainty over the cause, should be included. This ensures that all those who have suffered an injury are reported. To ensure consistency of the statistical approach, we have now added such cases into the published statistics for January 2006 onwards.

These revised statistics supercede information previously released by the Department into the public domain.

The revised data have now been published on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk.DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

and

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (Budget Allocations and Outcome Targets)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On 2 July 2007 I announced that Government spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England would increase to £800 million in 2010-11 and that I would publish details later. This past year has shown the impact that flooding can have on communities and individuals, and these record sums for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion are clearly needed.

We will be investing £1.8 billion directly with operating authorities in the next three years on flood management, including new or improved defences, monitoring, and the availability of flood warning. We are also making an initial provision of £34.5 million which may be needed to implement Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations.

We estimate that local authorities will spend around £260 million maintaining their own defences, as well as funding additional work by the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards. This means that Government will be investing over £2.15 billion during the three year period.

			Allocated to Operating Authorities		*Total £ millions*
	LA Own Spend (Estimated)	*Retained (for now) in DEFRA*	*EA Resource (maintenance & operational costs)*	*Capital Programme (new & improved defences & projects)*	
2007-08 Baseline	86	0	247	259	602
2008-09	87	4	251	308	650
2009-10	87	20.5	258	334.5	700
2010-11	87	38	279	400	804
CSR 3 Year total	*261*	*62.5*	*788*	*1,042.5*	*2,154*

I am also setting new targets for the delivery of the capital programme that will include improving the protection of 145,000 households over the three-year period including 45,000 of those most at risk. Targets have also been set that will see the condition of some 24,000 hectares of our SSSIs brought back into favourable condition by 2010.

Outcome Measure	*Definition*	*Minimum Target*
OM1 Economic Benefits	Average benefit cost ratio across the capital programme based upon the present value whole life costs and benefits of projects delivering in the CSR07.	5 to 1 average with all projects having a benefit cost ratio robustly greater than 1
OM2 Households protected	Number of households with improved standard of protection against flooding or coastal erosion risk.	145,000 households of which 45,000 are at significant or greater probability
OM3 Deprived households at risk	Number of households for which the probability of flooding is reduced from significant or greater through projects benefiting the most deprived 20% of areas.	9,000 of the 45,000 households above
OM4 Nationally important wildlife sites	Hectares of SSSI land where there is a programme of measures in place (agreed with Natural England) to reach target condition by 2011.	24,000 hectares
OM5 UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats	Hectares of priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat including intertidal created by March 2011.	800 hectares of which at least 300 hectares should be intertidal

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council - 28 January 2008

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Kim Darroch (UK permanent representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Pakistan

The Council discussed the situation in Pakistan ahead of elections on 18 February. Foreign Ministers underlined the importance of maintaining pressure on the Government of Pakistan to ensure free and fair elections, including through the deployment of an EU election observation mission to Pakistan. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to encourage further thought within the EU on what it could do to support Pakistan after the elections, including in the areas of institution building and economic development.

Middle East

The Council discussed the grave humanitarian situation in Gaza and events on the Egyptian border. Foreign Ministers emphasised the EU's commitment to helping Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Egypt find a solution to the current situation. The Council highlighted the EU's readiness to contribute to a peaceful solution, including through the resumption of the EU's border monitoring mission at Rafah.

The Council adopted conclusions encouraging the parties to honour their road map commitments, particularly on Israeli settlements and on Palestinian security, and welcoming the achievements of the Paris donors' conference.

The Council adopted conclusions on Lebanon condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Beirut and welcoming mediation efforts by the Arab League in resolving the political crisis.

Kenya

The Council discussed the latest situation in Kenya following recent presidential elections. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to underline the seriousness of developments in Kenya and urge continued EU support for the African Union and Kofi Annan in their efforts to help Kenya's political leaders reach agreement on resolving the crisis.

The Council adopted conclusions condemning the violence, expressing concern about the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in Kenya and urging all parties to engage constructively in dialogue to find a sustainable political solution to the crisis.

Sudan/Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR)

UN envoy to the Darfur political process Jan Eliasson briefed the Council on the humanitarian and political situation in Darfur. He underlined that it was important the international community urged all parties to cease hostilities and engage in the peace process. In discussion, Foreign Ministers highlighted the need for continued EU pressure on the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the prompt deployment of an effective African Union-UN peacekeeping force to Darfur and to implement the comprehensive peace agreement as the basis for peace and development in Sudan.

The Council adopted conclusions on Sudan welcoming the return of the parties to the comprehensive peace agreement to the Government of national unity. The Council also highlighted the importance of humanitarian access to the people of Darfur, urging all parties in the conflict to cease hostilities, and to engage constructively with the peace process mediated by the UN and African Union envoys.

The Council also underlined its concern at the deterioration of the security situation in neighbouring Chad and agreed to launch an EU military operation in Chad and the CAR, which will contribute towards an improved security situation in those countries by protecting displaced persons and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Iran

The High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana briefed the Council on his recent contact with the Iranian authorities and on the decision by the E3+3 (Germany, France, UK, China, Russia and the US) to start consultations in New York on a further sanctions resolution given the lack of Iranian co-operation. The Government support discussion of a further resolution in New York, given the lack of progress and strengthening of the EU's measures in support of action by the UN Security Council.

Western Balkans

Discussion of the Western Balkans focused on Serbia. Foreign Ministers agreed to invite Serbia to sign a political agreement on co-operation with the EU and establish a taskforce to assist Serbia to meet the conditions which would enable it to make accelerated progress towards a stabilisation and association agreement. The Government support this political agreement, believing it sends a positive signal of the EU's commitment to Serbia's European future.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Scrutiny of European Business

The Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (Helen Goodman): During the debate in the House on 25 October 2007 on the motion to renew the present method of appointment of European Standing Committees, the Government undertook to come back to the House with proposals for reform of European scrutiny within three months of the start of the current session. The Government have now tabled a motion proposing changes to the Standing Orders, with a number of related proposals. These reflect consultations across the House in recent months and also take into account the second report of the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of 2004-05 Scrutiny of European Business (HC paper 465, session 2004-05). Discussions have been held in particular with: the shadow Leader of the House; the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes); the Chairmen of the European Scrutiny, Liaison and Procedure Committees; the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee; the Chairman of Ways and Means; and the Chairman of the European Union Committee in the House of Lords as well as a number of hon. and right hon. Back-Bench Members of the House, and Members of the European Parliament.

The present scrutiny system is based on the work of the European Scrutiny Committee in referring selected documents for debate by European Standing Committees, in the context of the House's scrutiny reserve resolution. This delivers real benefits to the House. In particular it ensures that all documents are considered and the major ones are debated. However, improvements are needed to make those debates more constructive and to ensure that Members are able to focus their work in areas where they have an interest and expertise to offer.

The Government's proposals accordingly build on the present system but seek to make the operation of the European Standing Committees —to be renamed European Committees—more effective. The Government proposes improvements:

to the way the members of European Standing Committees are selected, with the membership in future drawing in part, where possible, on the European Scrutiny Committee and on relevant departmental select committees

to the proceedings in European Standing Committees, with opportunities for a brief opening statement from a member of the European Scrutiny Committee and for a more effective style of questioning of Ministers following their initial statements.

In addition, the Government proposes:

the alerting of the Scrutiny Committee by the Government at an early stage to consultation exercises on important EU proposals; and

improved opportunities for Members to receive directly EU documents in areas in which they have expressed a particular interest.

The Government are also grateful to Mr Speaker for authorising the inclusion in the 'Future Business' section of the daily Order Paper of a list of forthcoming documents and motions for debate in European Committees following referral from the European Scrutiny Committee.

Taken together, the Government considers that the measures should be a positive step forward in helping Members to engage more effectively in scrutinising those proposals originating in the European Union which are significant and which it is important for this House to examine carefully.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Oversight of Border and Immigration Agency

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): The Government are soon to introduce a single border force to deliver stronger policing of ports and airports. Along with these changes we will be equipping agency staff with a wide array of police powers, such as those set out in the UK Borders Act. These powers include powers of detention at ports, powers to arrest a person who has committed or is about to commit an offence of assaulting an immigration officer, and powers to enter and search premises for evidence of an arrested individual's nationality.

Before these powers are introduced it is important that effective oversight arrangements are in place. On the 26 July 2007 therefore, I announced the publication of a consultation document on matters related to the implementation of measures in the Police and Justice Act 2006 to extend the Independent Police Complaints Commission's jurisdiction to cover the Border and Immigration Agency's enforcement functions. I wish to inform the House that I am publishing today an analysis of responses, a Government policy statement setting out the Government's consideration of issues raised by respondents and regulations, subject to negative resolution, which will extend the Independent Police Complaints Commission's jurisdiction in this regard.

Copies of these regulations and documents have been placed in the House Library.

The IPCC will provide independent oversight of the most serious complaints, incidents and misconduct matters where police powers are used by immigration officers and officials. This oversight will be similar to that which the IPCC provides for the police and other law enforcement bodies such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The new chief inspector created by the UK Borders Act 2007 will monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's processes and practices as a whole. The IPCC will look at individual cases. The chief inspector will work closely with the IPCC to ensure comprehensive independent external scrutiny of our activities.

The IPCC already oversees the work of HM Revenue and Customs colleagues; a number of whom will be joining the UK Border Agency.

I welcome this new oversight and would like to inform the House that similar oversight provisions are currently being developed for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council 25 and 26 January 2008

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council was held on 25 and 26 January 2008 in Ljubljana. My right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General, the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. Since it was an informal Council, no formal decisions were taken. The following main issues were discussed:

The first Home Affairs session opened with a report from the presidency on the work of the Future Group on EU Home Affairs. Those not on the group were invited to give their views. All supported the work underway, stressing the need to prioritise data-sharing, both within the EU and co-operation with third countries. In relation to other subject areas, there were suggestions that work might look at the further harmonisation of rules to manage the Schengen area, tighter border controls, measures to bring terrorists to justice and the strengthening of action in the area of civil protection and disaster response. Several delegations also raised the need to ensure that the work of the home affairs group and that of the justice future group were linked more closely. The new European Parliament's civil liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) President, Gérard Deprez, gave a general introduction to the approach of LIBE, stressing their concern for privacy and individual rights.

The presidency concluded that interoperability of databases and the needs of law enforcement should drive future EU policy on data-sharing, coupled with thorough data protection. On migration, an integrated approach to management was needed based on Frontex (the EU's border agency), operating across land and sea borders. Links with external policy should be stronger, as should data-sharing, and work with and in third countries. In all these areas the EU should analyse what it already had, and then look at the next steps. The presidency noted that a final report should be prepared under the incoming French presidency, with a view to contributing to the successor to the Hague JHA work programme.

The second session discussed practical co-operation in the field of asylum, with the presidency stressing the need for joint practical projects and asking for views on a European Support Office (ESO) which would oversee all forms of co-operation between member states on the Common European Asylum System. The UK welcomed practical co-operation based on an assessment of why people moved. The Commission said that its proposals on the second stage of the Common European Asylum System were due in July and work on an ESO should start with a feasibility study. All member states agreed that practical cooperation should be strengthened, and that there was a need for more uniform country of origin information. All member states also supported the ESO, but views differed as to its role and staffing. The presidency concluded that work to unify the interpretation of existing instruments, common training, and shared interpretation pool should continue. There was wide support for an ESO, but further work was needed on its tasks and financing. The presidency looked forward to the Commission's ESO study. The Council would be invited to agree conclusions on this at a future session.

The home affairs session closed the official programme with a working lunch, during which Ministers considered the timetable for the implementation of the second generation of the Schengen information system (SIS II). The Commission and presidency argued that member states had to set and commit to a real timetable for SIS II. More time for testing was needed, but a formal decision had to be taken at the February JHA Council. Ministers agreed with a presidency proposal to remodel the oversight of the SIS II project on similar grounds to that used for SISOne4all, setting up a ministerial level steering group of various member states.

JUSTICE

Civil Justice Council Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am today announcing an independent review of the Civil Justice Council in line with Cabinet Office "Guidance for Public Bodies". The Civil Justice Council was established in 1998 and has never been reviewed formally. The review is a timely opportunity to illustrate publicly the considerable achievements of the Council and to help it develop further. The review will be conducted by Dr. Jonathan Spencer CB and will seek the views of the members, those who work with the Council and the end users of the Civil Justice System.

The review will examine in particular:

the Council's strengths and weaknesses, the extent to which it has established itself as an authoritative influence in the civil justice world, the extent to which it has chosen important issues to address; and its success in doing so;

the effectiveness of its chosen ways of working, including the Council itself, its committees and the secretariat, and including the way in which it works and communicates with other organisations; and

the ways in which the Council and its work should be adjusted, if at all, to maximise its effectiveness in the future.

The review is due to be complete in spring 2008.

PRIME MINISTER

Government Skills

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): With effect from 1 April 2008, responsibility for Government Skills will be transferred from the Cabinet Office to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Government Skills is the Sector Skills Council tasked with working with central Government Departments and the armed forces to increase the skills of the workforce. With the creation of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills this move will improve alignment with economy-wide skills policy.

Government Skills will continue to work closely with the devolved Administrations and with the Cabinet Office. No transfer of functions order is necessary to effect the change.

I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses a paper by the Cabinet Office which sets out the reasons for this change in further detail.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 February 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN: 22 January 2008

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 22 January 2008. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury attended for the UK. The items on the agenda were as follows:

Presidency Work Programme

The Slovenian presidency of the Council presented its proposed work programme for ECOFIN in the first half of 2008, which was followed by an exchange of views. As part of the agreed three-presidency approach, the Slovenian presidency will take forward the common priorities started under the German and Portuguese presidencies. These are: ensuring efficient and effective management of economic policy; taking further steps toward the completion of the internal market; and improving the quality of the public finances. In addition, the Slovenian presidency will address economic reform issues ahead of the 2008 spring European Council, and financial stability issues following recent developments in financial markets. The UK supports the proposed work programme.

Introduction of the Euro in Cyprus and Malta

Ministers exchanged views on the introduction of the euro in Cyprus and Malta on 1 January 2008, following presentations from the European Commission and the Cypriot and Maltese delegations. The European Commission will continue to monitor progress in these countries, and will publish a report on the changeover in Cyprus and Malta in the near future.

Preparation of the European Council (13-14 March 2008)

i) The Next Three-year Cycle: Strategic report, Broad Economic Policy Guidelines 2008-10, Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations, and the Community Lisbon Programme.

Ministers held an orientation debate on a range of documents related to the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. These documents included the Commission's recently published strategic report reviewing the latest three year-cycle of the strategy, proposals for broad economic policy guidelines, country specific recommendations and the Community Lisbon programme.

Ministers agreed that the existing priorities of the strategy (knowledge and innovation, employment, the business environment, and energy and climate change) remained valid and that no fundamental overhaul of the guidelines was required. Member states should therefore prioritise the implementation of the agreed reforms. March ECOFIN will return to these issues and will prepare a report on these documents for the spring European Council.

ii) Single Market Review

The Council agreed a set of conclusions on the single market review. Ministers agreed priority areas for action, which include the rapid implementation of the services directive, efforts to liberalise network industries and promoting the free movement of knowledge and innovation. The UK welcomes the focus on these areas, which should help build a market-based, flexible, and outward facing single market. These conclusions will inform discussions at the spring European Council.

iii) Contribution to the Spring European Council Conclusions: Key Issues Paper

Ministers discussed the broad themes of a key issues paper, which will form ECOFIN's contribution to the spring European Council. Drafting of the paper will now continue at official level through the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) and Economic and Finance Committee (EFC). Ministers will adopt a final version of this paper at the February ECOFIN.

Single Euro Payments Area

Council agreed a set of conclusions on the single euro payments area (SEPA), an initiative led by the EU banking industry to develop pan-European payment schemes for payments in euros. Although the UK is not a member of the Eurozone, it is supportive of the ongoing work to deliver SEPA, which it hopes will bring real benefits for business and consumers.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Government Response to the European Commission Cohesion Policy (Consultation)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): On 30 January 2008 the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform submitted the Government's response to the European Commission's consultation on the future of cohesion policy. The response was drawn up in consultation with other Government Departments and the devolved Administrations.

In the former Minister for Competitiveness' written statement to Parliament of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 9WS, he outlined the approach the Government were taking to the response: in particular, that they would focus on the aims of cohesion policy and the most efficient mechanisms for achieving these aims. The response is consistent with this approach. It does not pre-empt the Government's view on the separate Commission consultation on the EU budget review. The response maintains the policy direction set out in "A Modern Regional Policy for the United Kingdom" (2003), taking account of the policy statements in Global Europe, in particular, that there should in the future be "a significant increase in the percentage of structural funds to poorer member states".

Due to the scope of the questions asked in the consultation itself, the Government response is formed of two parts. A covering letter is used to raise issues in relation to the debate on the future of cohesion policy that the Commission's questions do not address. This is followed by responses to each of the questions.

The letter starts by putting cohesion policy into context, as established in the Treaty; that is, it contributes towards the overall aims of the European Union by addressing disparities in development between regions. The best way to address these disparities is through the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas; supporting the sustainable development of jobs and growth noting that cohesion policy is not the only means of addressing this agenda. These themes are further developed in the answers to the specific questions.

The letter then states that our response focuses on the shared aims of cohesion policy and that reform of the structural funds should be given full consideration as part of the EC budget review. It highlights the three principles upon which debate on the review should be based, as stated in Global Europe, and notes that in line with these principles a priority for reform will be "a significant increase in the percentage of structural funds to poorer member states" but goes on to acknowledge that the impact of significant changes to funding will need to be considered.

Finally, the point is made that the debate on the future of cohesion policy is wider than the questions raised in the consultation and provide examples of other questions that could be considered.

The consultation questions themselves are divided into three themes. The first set of questions asks how far cohesion policy is adapted to addressing the challenges of globalisation, climate and demographic change.

The Government response is that cohesion policy should be driven by the integrated guidelines for jobs and growth and the national reform programmes (NRPs). The challenges facing European regions are not new and are already being addressed at a European, national, regional and local level. Cohesion policy should remain focused on achieving sustainable jobs and growth.

The second set of questions asks how cohesion policy can further develop an integrated and more flexible approach to growth and jobs in the context of these new challenges.

Our response advocates a strategic approach to cohesion policy directly linked to the integrated guidelines and NRPs. The link to the NRPs should provide the flexibility for cohesion policy to add value to the policies relevant to each member state and within this framework allow regions to focus on their specific priorities.

The final set of questions asks how well suited the existing policy management system would be to deliver the requirements identified in the response to the previous set of questions.

In responding we reiterate the approach set out to the previous set of questions and call for simplification and proportionality in the financial management systems. The benefits of co-operation activities are also stressed, as is the need for proper financial management.

As well as being published on the European Commission's website this response and covering letter will be made available to the public through the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website. The response has also been brought to the attention of a wide variety of UK stakeholders, Members of the European Parliament and the appropriate Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees. In addition a copy of the response and the covering letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

"Staying Safe Action Plan"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I am today informing Parliament about the publication of the "Staying Safe Action Plan". This is a cross-Government document setting out work to be taken forward over the period 2008-11 to improve children and young people's safety.

This action plan has been developed across Government and demonstrates our collective commitment to keeping children and young people safe.

I will place a copy of the document in the Libraries of both Houses.

The "Staying Safe Action Plan" is the Government response to the "Staying Safe" consultation, which ran from 18 July to 31 October 2007. During the consultation we received 1,039 responses from practitioners, parents, children, young people and the general public and held regional events with practitioners, as well as discussion groups with parents, children and members of the general public.

The consultation generated a wide ranging debate about children and young people's safety and the key messages of the "Staying Safe Action Plan" are:

Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility.

In many ways children and young people are safer than previous generations, but there are new risks and challenges.

It is important to strike a balance between protecting children and young people and allowing them the freedom to learn for themselves and develop resilience to harm.

The action plan sets out commitments from across Government for work to keep children and young people safe. The effectiveness of these policies over the CSR period 2008-11 will be monitored and evaluated by PSA 13 (improve children and young people's safety).

DEFENCE

DARA's Rotary Wing and Components Business

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): On the 25 July 2007, I announced that Vector Aerospace had been selected as the preferred bidder for the purchase of the DARA Rotary Wing and Components businesses at Fleetlands in Hampshire and Almondbank in Perthshire.

Following a period of extended consultation with a wide range of interested parties including local MPs and trade unions and successful negotiations with the preferred bidder, I am now able to announce sale of these businesses to Vector Aerospace for £17 million. Vector Aerospace has also legally undertaken to retain the operational capability currently provided in the

UK and has given a full commitment to meet all employment and pension protections. Throughout the sale process, it has remained our priority to secure the best decision for defence. First and foremost is the support we provide to our armed forces who are so often involved in difficult and dangerous operations. Secondly, our responsibility also extends to securing the skills that exist currently in DARA for our longer-term requirements while giving the loyal and dedicated DARA employees a secure future. These are objectives that my predecessor set out in November 2005 as part of our logistics transformation programme and that are wholly consistent with the defence industrial strategy, which has seen our key industry partners working with us to deliver operational capability to the front line on time and to budget.

On current plans, these businesses have a finite life; privatisation could develop the business further, with the best chance of winning a share of new work in a subcontractor role via the through life contracts we are increasingly placing with our key industry partners, as well as other work outside the MOD. It is therefore in the best interests of our colleagues on the front line and the DARA employees that we secure the best long-term solution, which allows the skills, expertise and on-shore capability to be retained for our future needs.

Sale to Vector Aerospace not only offers the opportunity for investment and growth but also provides us with operational certainty on a vitally important maintenance service that has every chance of improving under new ownership. Vector Aerospace has a demonstrable track record of military aviation support both in the UK and North America and more importantly, can sustain capability to surge and flex to meet defence operational requirements. Sale to Vector Aerospace is also supported by our key rotary wing industry partners, Boeing and AgustaWestland, who recognise the important role Vector Aerospace will have in their future contracting arrangements.

I must add that before reaching this decision, we have taken into account the views, concerns and contributions from hon. Members, trade union officials at every level and many others who have contributed to the debate on sale. I can confirm that we will continue to maintain a dialogue with trade union and employees through to the completion of the sale. This announcement gives the workforce clarity on this important and sensitive issue.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the excellence and professionalism of the DARA employees and their contribution in supporting those in our armed forces who rely on their skill and dedication which is invaluable and recognised throughout the world.

Following completion of legal and regulatory processes, and in particular the need for Vector Aerospace to obtain a final Government Actuaries Department certificate for its broadly comparable pension scheme, it is expected that the formal transfer of ownership to Vector Aerospace will conclude shortly.

US Emergency Donor Blood Transfusions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): As the Secretary of State for Defence informed the House on 10 January, a small number of UK service personnel who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years have received life-saving emergency transfusions of US blood. We had identified from US and UK records that 18 of these UK service casualties might have received blood or blood products from US emergency donors at their field hospitals where samples from the donor might not have had a valid retrospective test. There was no evidence that a blood-borne disease had been transmitted from a US donor to a UK service recipient, but there was a small risk for these individuals that a blood-borne disease was transferred without being detected. We therefore commenced contacting these individuals on 20 December last year to offer retrospective tests for these few individuals as a sensible reassurance measure.

All UK service personnel who might be affected (or if appropriate their next of kin) were contacted personally by their own military or civilian GP. The precise means of communicating was decided by each individual GP, since they are the only persons able to balance all the factors affecting their patients' situation. In some cases, initial contact will not have been made face-to-face, whether because of the patient's location or other factors. I am satisfied that GPs acted appropriately in difficult circumstances and with their patients' welfare uppermost in their thoughts. However, by 11 January, all 18 patients (or if appropriate their next of kin) had been counselled on the advisability of having their blood tested and offered the necessary tests. It is of course the patient's right to decide whether to take any such test.

An individual's tests will take two to three weeks to process. However, the blood samples should not be taken until a period of some months have elapsed since the transfusion took place. This means that not all the individuals in the group of 18 patients have yet had their tests completed.

Patients have an absolute right to medical confidentiality either from direct disclosure of their personal information or from indirect disclosure resulting from the release of wider information. This means that in order to protect patient confidentiality in such a small group, the Department is unable to reveal any further details, on either an individual or group basis, of the number of those contacted who elected to take the tests offered. This also includes revealing details of the results of such tests, whether positive or negative, unless explicit and informed consent is given by the patient concerned. Indeed, the Department itself has no right to know an individual's test results without the patient's explicit consent.

MOD fully recognises the distress this will have caused individuals. We continue to offer help and support to those to whom we have offered retrospective testing, and to those others who have become concerned as a result of the media coverage.

Any blood transfusion carries some degree of risk. We and our coalition partners are committed to minimising those risks. The crucial point remains that an emergency blood transfusion from donors on or near the battlefield can be—and in some cases certainly has been—the only way of saving lives of gravely wounded UK personnel.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Prospects for the European Union (2008)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper on "Prospects for the European Union in 2008". Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can also be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk

The last White Paper was published in July 2007. It focused primarily on the priorities of the Portuguese presidency. The White Paper I am laying before the House today looks at the priorities of the Slovenian presidency for the first half of 2008.

The Slovenian presidency will concentrate on the EU delivery agenda across a wide range of subjects, building on the positive successes of the Portuguese presidency, focusing on four key priorities.

The Slovenian presidency is keen to oversee significant progress on the ratification of the treaty of Lisbon in the EU27 during its time in the Chair. The UK agrees with the presidency that this treaty is key to the success of the EU, bringing an end to institutional reforms and a return to strong delivery both internally and with external partners. This change in focus will be essential to enable the EU to meet the varied challenges of globalisation.

On climate change and energy security, the presidency will take forward discussions of the climate and energy package to be published before spring Council including a unilateral 20 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. We will work with our partners to ensure that the EU helps secure agreement on a comprehensive framework to tackle climate change once the Kyoto protocol expires in 2012.

The Slovenian presidency will also aim to finalise the single market review and agree the energy and telecommunication liberalisation packages to create a more competitive network market, and to ensure increased energy security. These are key issues for the UK Government and one which we have been working hard with EU partners to reach agreement on.

In addition, the presidency will focus on implementation of the Lisbon agenda, particularly at a national level, encouraging member states to carry out reforms already agreed. We will work closely with the presidency to assist them in taking this forward, rooted in a global Europe approach. As part of this the presidency is keen to increase innovation through a stronger focus on research and skills to prepare the EU for new global challenges, such as emerging markets and changing demographics.

The UK supports the presidency in its commitment to make real progress on Kosovo and the Western Balkans over the next six months, for which it is ideally placed regionally, following on from the strong language we achieved at the December European Council 2007.

The EU will also continue to work with international partners to address the challenges posed by Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East peace process. The presidency has committed to summits with key partners including Japan and Russia and we will be working closely with Slovenia to carry forward agreed priorities with others including China and Africa.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ministerial Authorisation Under Section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 (as Amended)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be a Somali or Eritrean national submit to language analysis.

This authorisation replaces the Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (Language Analysis) Authorisation 2007, which has expired.

Language analysis carried out in 2007 for some Somali and Eritrean asylum applicants demonstrated that significant proportions of those tested had claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that was not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual cases, and to ascertain the extent of this abuse.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for four months (until June 2008), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 6 February 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Strategic Export Controls (2007 Review)

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The Government will today—Wednesday 6 February 2007—publish their initial response to the public consultation on "UK Strategic Export Controls".

On Monday 18 June 2007, I announced to the House, the launch of a public consultation on strategic export controls. In this consultation, the Government sought views both on the controls they introduced in 2004 under the Export Control Act 2002—to establish whether they are having the intended effect without imposing unnecessary or disproportionate burdens on business—and on a range of options for further change.

Prior to the closure of the consultation period on 30 September 2007, the Government received a total of 23 substantive responses from a range of groups, including industry and non-governmental organisations, and over 5,000 brief emails and letters. These have now been published on the BERR website at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/legislation/export-control-act-2002/review/index.html

Since the public consultation period closed, the Government have been analysing the responses and considering the case for change. The initial response commits the Government to introduce change in a number of areas of significant concern. Notably it puts into action the commitment announced by the Prime Minister, in his Mansion House speech on 12 November 2007, to extend export laws to control brokering and trafficking of small arms by UK persons anywhere in the world and to give consideration to extending these controls to cover other weapons of concern.

The initial response also commits the Government to:

extend the coverage of extra-territorial trade controls to include trading in MANPADs (that is, portable weapons designed to fire missiles at aircraft) and those cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm to civilians when carried out by UK persons anywhere in the world;

rationalise the licensing treatment of long range missiles and unmanned air vehicles;

add "sting sticks" to the current UK list of torture equipment, to which the most stringent controls are applied;

start EU negotiations to introduce a new "torture end use control" that will allow all EU states to bring under control any item which is known to be for use in torture.

The Government are currently undertaking further research and consultation with a view to reaching an agreement on some of the other change options that have been proposed. We hope to publish a further response to the change proposal in spring 2008.

Once the Government have finalised their position, they will aim to introduce the new legislation in three stages. The addition of "sting sticks" to the UK list of torture equipment is relatively straightforward to implement; this will be our first priority and we will act with immediacy. In the next stage we will then focus on the more complex changes to the controls on small arms, MANPADs and cluster munitions, so that change in these areas of high concern is also implemented speedily. In the final stage, the Government will introduce any further changes that may be necessary following further consideration, for example the potential extension of extra-territorial trade controls beyond small arms, to other types of weapons; the case for strengthening of controls on the export of non-controlled equipment for military end use in destinations of concern and introducing a register of traders in military equipment.

Financial Reporting Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas): The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) is the UK's independent regulator and standard setter for accounting, auditing and the actuarial profession. The FRC's remit was expanded in 2004 as a result of the Government's review of audit and accounting regulation, and again in 2006 to include actuarial standards and regulation.

The Government believe the FRC has adapted well to its new responsibilities, and in particular welcome the recent changes it has made to its governance arrangements to increase its effectiveness and efficiency. The Government remain strongly supportive of the FRC. The FRC continues to exercise functions delegated to it by the Secretary of State, and indeed the Secretary of State is in the process of delegating additional functions concerning audit regulation to the FRC.

Corporate reporting and governance in the UK are widely recognised domestically and internationally as being of a very high standard generally. The FRC's integrated and market-led approach to regulation underpins these standards. This approach continues to receive strong support from companies, investors, the accountancy profession and other stakeholders.

For many years the Government have contributed one third of the FRC's core operating costs for its responsibilities for accounting, auditing and corporate governance. However, this position is not consistent with the funding arrangements for other similar regulatory bodies such as the Financial Services Authority and the Pensions Regulator, or with funding for the FRC's actuarial regulation. Nor does it sit well with the FRC's new board, which is now composed largely of private sector rather than Ministerial appointees. The Government have therefore concluded that, as a market-led regulator, the FRC should in future be funded largely by market participants.

The FRC will consult market participants on the options for new funding arrangements. In order to allow an orderly transition to stable, new, long-term funding arrangements, the Government have confirmed that they will maintain their current contribution to the FRC's costs for at least the 2008-09 financial year.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

EU Youth Council

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes): The Deputy UK Permanent Representative, Andy Lebrecht, will attend the Youth Council on 14 February. The agenda items are as follows:

> Ministers will be asked to adopt key messages to the spring European Council on further implementation of the European Pact for Youth. The messages call on the European Council to emphasise that participation by young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities in employment, education, training and social integration, should remain key objectives of member states' economic and social strategies. These objectives should be achieved through concrete measures and be based on a cross-sectoral approach, youth empowerment, and through developing the youth dimension in the Lisbon agenda. The UK is content with this approach to youth policy.

There will be an exchange of views on intercultural dialogue and young people as part of the wider European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Following our announcement of 5 December [Official Report, Column 65WS] on decisions on unitary proposals, I have today requested the Boundary Committee under section 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to advise on certain matters respectively relating to the unitary proposals made by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council, and Norwich city council.

These proposals are three of the 26 proposals submitted by councils in response to the Secretary of State's invitation to councils issued on 26 October 2006.

On the basis of her judgements that there was not a reasonable likelihood that these proposals would meet all of the outcomes specified by the five criteria set out in the invitation, the Secretary of State is at present not minded to implement these proposals. However, she believes, having regard to the circumstances of each area and to certain strengths that the proposals possess, notwithstanding her assessment of them against the criteria, that there could be alternative proposals covering the whole or part of the wider county area which would achieve those outcomes.

We have requested the Boundary Committee to advise on these proposals by 31 December 2008. We have in parallel issued guidance under section 6 of the Act to which the Boundary Committee must have regard in making a recommendation or alternative proposal to the Secretary of State.

I have placed copies of the request and guidance in the Library of the House and they are also available on the Departmental website.

The Secretary of State has specified in her request that the matters on which the Committee's advice is sought include whether for the areas affected by these proposals—in each case the city or borough area and the remaining county area—there could be alternative unitary proposals that would meet the five criteria specified in the request.

Our request also specifies the possibility of the Committee making alternative proposals, which may involve merging the whole or part of the districts of Great Yarmouth and Waveney or, if essential, involve changes to the boundaries of the existing Devon unitaries—Plymouth city and Torbay borough. Given that these latter councils are already established unitary councils, our request about alternative proposals is on the basis of maintaining the concept of the city and the borough.

When providing its advice, it is a matter for the Boundary Committee to decide whether to make an alternative proposal. The Act provides that the Secretary of State may decide to implement by Order, with or without modification any alternative proposal made by the Committee, or to take no action on it.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan will take place in April 2008. The force package that we currently plan to deploy will see the lead formation, 52 Infantry Brigade, replaced by 16 Air Assault Brigade, which will provide the majority of the units serving in Afghanistan. The forces deploying include:

16 Air Assault Brigade Headquarters and 216 Signal Squadron
Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron
7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault)
The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (27th [Inniskilling], 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment)
2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
The Pathfinder Platoon
6 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
16 Close Support Medical Regiment
7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
156 Independent Provost Company, Royal Military Police
Elements of the Household Cavalry Regiment
Elements of 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
Elements of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)
Elements of The Queen's Royal Lancers
Elements of 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 32nd Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 39th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 47th Regiment, Royal Artillery
Elements of 33rd Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

Elements of 63 Works Group Royal Engineers
Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 16th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), The Royal Corps of Signals
Elements of The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps
Headquarters 104 Logistic Brigade
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 2 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 7 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 27 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps
Elements of 2 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Elements of 104 Military Working Dog Support Unit
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of Joint Civil Military Co-operation Group
Elements of 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group
Elements of 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)
Elements of 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (14th/15th, 19th and 33rd/75th Foot)
Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (27th [Inniskilling], 83rd, 87th and The Ulster Defence Regiment)
Elements of 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
Elements of 148 Expeditionary Forces Squadron, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteer)
Hospital Squadron formed from 203 Field Hospital (V) and 204 Field Hospital (V)
904 Expeditionary Air Wing Royal Air Force
1 Force Protection Wing Headquarters Royal Air Force
3 Regiment Field Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 4 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 18 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 27 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 30 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 39 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 47 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 70 Squadron Royal Air Force
Elements of 1 Air Movements Wing Royal Air Force
Elements of 85 (Expeditionary Logistic) Wing Headquarters, Royal Air Force
Tactical Supply Wing
Joint Helicopter Support Unit
Elements of 1 Air Control Centre Royal Air Force
Elements of 90 Signals Unit Royal Air Force
Elements of 2 Motor Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of Mobile Catering Support Unit
Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of Tactical Armament Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing

The bulk of these units represent direct replacements for previously announced deployments to Afghanistan and overall force levels will be broadly unchanged.

The House will also wish to be aware that 16 Air Assault Brigade's deployment will last until October 2008. On current plans, the Brigade will then be replaced by 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines. I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to deploy in October in due course.

Goat Experiments (Cessation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has today announced the end of its immediate requirement for testing on live goats as part of its hyperbaric research in support of the MOD's Submarine Escape Rescue and Abandonment System (SMERAS).

This research programme has been aimed at improving the accuracy of the information relating to the likely risk of the incidence of decompression illness following escape from a submerged submarine in varying depths and internal submarine pressures. Information obtained from these trials has been used to provide advice to submarine crews in the event of early abandonment of a disabled submerged submarine. This information enables the crew to make an informed judgement of the relative risks of delaying abandonment until rescue arrives. The welfare of its personnel is paramount to the MOD and this advice forms an integral part of MOD's duty of care to its submarine staff.

The MOD only conducts animal testing where absolutely necessary and all work involving animals is carried out in strict accordance with the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Therefore, all testing using animals is subject to regular review to assess the need to continue with such work.

The MOD has recently reviewed the requirement for further such hyperbaric research. The testing programme was aimed at improving the accuracy of the information relating to the likely probability and consequence of decompression illness following escape from a submerged submarine in varying depths and internal submarine pressures. This requirement has now been achieved, and the review has concluded that the remaining associated areas of uncertainty in submarine escape and rescue relate to events that are considered highly unlikely, and do not therefore need to be addressed by means of animal testing. The MOD has endorsed these recommendations and as a result, it has no immediate need to continue animal testing of this type.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration Reform (Points-based System)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): Over the next year, the Government will deliver the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 45 years. As part of these reforms I am today laying the first of a series of new immigration rules implementing the Points-Based System (PBS). The PBS will build on a package of measures already being introduced to deliver our four objectives of protection, prevention, accountability and compassion.

Steps to strengthen our border protection will include: checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers for frontline staff. The PBS will form part of a robust system that is designed to prevent illegal migration. Associated measures will include big fines for employers who do not make checks and compulsory ID cards for foreign nationals make checks easier. We will continue to welcome those who promise to abide by the rules but we will hold to account those who break the rules, including automatic deportation for those who commit a serious offence.

The new rules for the points system strengthen our power to automatically refuse applications in which deception is used. Those who breach our immigration laws will be barred from returning to the UK for a fixed period of up to ten years. The new rules also begin to implement the PBS Tier 1 (General) route for highly skilled migrants.

Separately from the PBS changes, we are laying today amendments to the immigration rules that will restrict migrants in certain circumstances from taking employment as a doctor in training.

General Grounds for Refusal

The highly skilled tier will let Britain recruit some of the most successful people in the world. At the same time, we are toughening the immigration rules to make it easier to keep out migrants whom we do not want. All PBS migrants will need to provide original documents to prove that they are entitled to the points they claim. Where we have any suspicions about the documents, we will conduct rigorous checks and will disregard any document that we cannot verify. Any application in which deception is used will be refused automatically.

Under the new rules, those who try to cheat their way into Britain by lying in their immigration applications will automatically be refused. Those who breach our immigration laws will be barred from returning to the UK for a fixed period of up to ten years. This sends out the message that, although we welcome highly skilled migrants who wish to contribute to our society, we will not tolerate those who do not play by the rules.

Anyone who has used deception when applying for a visa will have any future applications to come here refused for ten years. Anyone who has used deception in any other application, or committed any other breach of the rules, will be refused permission to come back for the following periods, depending on how they left the UK after doing what they did:

Ten years if they were removed or deported;

Five years if they left voluntarily at public expense (for example, through an assisted voluntary return);

One year if they left voluntarily at their own expense.

Where migrants have left the UK at public expense, we will also require them to repay the cost of their departure if they want to return, once we have introduced primary legislation that allows us to do so.

Tier 1 (General)

We are implementing the PBS Tier 1 (General) route for highly skilled migrants, and their dependants. The route will be open to migrants applying in-country from 29 February 2008; and open to applicants applying overseas in India from 1 April 2008. The route will be opened to all applicants applying overseas by the summer. Tier 1 (General) builds upon the success of the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) in attracting and retaining the most talented migrants who have the most to contribute economically.

PBS Tier 1 (General) will create a rigorous and single stage application process. India is our most important market for Tier 1 (General) so we are starting there.

I announced PBS fees in a written ministerial statement laid on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

The Points-Based System will be simpler, with clearer and more consistent outcomes for all parties. We are laying immigration rules today that will support those objectives by:

1. Simplifying the process for introducing specified application forms and procedures for applications or claims in connection with immigration.

2. Amending the rules for indefinite leave to remain as a work permit holder to allow time spent as a Highly Skilled Migrant or PBS Tier 1 (General) to count towards the current five-year qualifying period for settlement. This will correct an inconsistency in the immigration rules whereby time spent as a work permit holder can count towards an application for indefinite leave to remain as a Highly Skilled Migrant, but time spent as a Highly Skilled Migrant does not count towards an application for indefinite leave to remain as a work permit holder.

Doctors in Training

There are a limited number of postgraduate and speciality training posts in the NHS and in recent recruitment rounds significant numbers of UK-trained doctors have been displaced by doctors who have trained abroad. We are therefore amending the immigration rules to reduce the level of competition for training posts in the short-term.

Highly Skilled Migrants, Tier 1 (General) Migrants and their dependants will, in certain circumstances, have a condition imposed on their leave to enter or remain in the UK prohibiting them from taking employment as a doctor in training. This condition will not apply to migrants already in the UK with leave as a highly skilled migrant or as a postgraduate doctor/dentist undertaking the foundation course. These restrictions will be temporary pending the Department for Health implementing a sustainable solution to NHS recruitment issues.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education Council

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell): I will attend the Education Council on 14 February, representing both DIUS and DCSF interests. The meeting will cover two items, as follows:

Ministers will adopt the 2008 joint progress report of the Council and the Commission on progress under the "Education & Training 2010" work programme. The work programme is part of the EU objective to meet the Lisbon goals for growth and jobs and sets out benchmarks to be reached by 2010 in the fields of education and training. The report outlines progress in Europe against these benchmarks. It has been cleared by the European Scrutiny Committees in both Houses.

There will be an exchange of views and adoption of key messages to the spring European Council in the field of education and training. The messages are grouped in four themes: challenges which remain in the implementation of lifelong learning strategies; the importance of creativity, innovation and a broad skills base within the knowledge triangle, calling for a review of future skills requirements at European level, and increased autonomy for universities to enable them to benefit from private sector funding; intercultural dialogue as a means to create an inclusive society and competitive economy; and the development of transnational mobility. The proposed messages are acceptable to the UK.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail Safeguarding

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): On the 22 February 2005 the then Secretary of State for Transport introduced a hybrid Bill to provide for the construction, maintenance and operation of Crossrail. At this time, directions were also issued for the safeguarding of the main Crossrail route, from Maidenhead to Shenfield and from Whitechapel to Abbey Wood, for the associated construction worksites, and for the possible extension of Crossrail from Abbey Wood to Hoo Junction. This safeguarding protects the route from any conflicting developments that could interfere with the construction or operation of Crossrail.

As a result of negotiations with affected parties and the development of engineering design works, there have been changes to the land needed for the construction and operation of Crossrail. This means that some land that has been safeguarded will no longer be needed, while we are proposing to use other sections of land that are not currently safeguarded. Accordingly, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has issued revised safeguarding directions for the main route that reflect these changes.

In July 2005, the Department consulted on the possibility of safeguarding land between Maidenhead and Reading West Junction, which would protect land potentially required, should it be decided to extend Crossrail services to Reading. The Department also consulted on updating the safeguarding directions in the Abbey Wood to Hoo Junction corridor, to allow for additional works considered necessary for an extension of Crossrail services to Ebbsfleet. A decision was deferred following an instruction by the House to the Select Committee, where it considered appropriate, to consider any petitions on the extension of Crossrail to Reading (and Ebbsfleet) and to report to the House whether there was a case for the extension to be made by an order under the Transport and Works Act 1992. The Committee heard some evidence but did not make any recommendation on these matters in its "Special Report", published on 23 October 2007.

I have now decided to safeguard additional land between Maidenhead and Reading. While I am clear that Crossrail services will terminate at Maidenhead and have no plans to extend them to Reading, this measure gives the flexibility to be able to extend Crossrail in the future, should there be a business case. This safeguarding of the route would also protect the possibility of undertaking electrification works on the route to Reading, even without the extension of Crossrail. Again, this keeps this option available should a decision be taken to electrify the railway beyond Maidenhead.

There is no need for works powers to extend to Reading to be included in the Crossrail Bill, which would seriously delay the passage of the Bill through Parliament. If such powers were needed these could be sought by means of a Transport and Works Act Order. There is also sensible advance planning through designing station improvement works at both Reading and Maidenhead so as to allow for the possibility of the future extension of Crossrail services.

The next step on safeguarding is to consult Network Rail on which sites should be protected if any works were to be undertaken on the safeguarded route.

The Department is still considering updating the safeguarded route to Ebbsfleet and will continue to discuss this matter with Cross London Rail Links and the relevant local authorities further. The Department will make an announcement regarding this in due course.

Transport for London (Long-term Funding)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, I was able to agree a funding settlement with the Mayor of London for Transport for London (TfL) through to 2017-18. This settlement included details of funding for Crossrail and provision for costs relating to Metronet in the light of its move into administration.

This 10-year funding settlement underlines the Government's commitment to deliver the transport investment central to our continued growth and prosperity. It carries forward our commitment to modernising and extending the capital's public transport system, including the upgrade of the London Underground. It sustains our support for transport projects central to our preparation for the Olympics in 2012. And it supports the delivery of Crossrail. I am taking this opportunity to place copies of letters setting out details of the TfL settlement in full in the Library of the House and on my Department's website.

I can set out these details now because those elements of the settlement that relate to Metronet are no longer commercially sensitive. As the House will know, in 2003, the Metronet companies (Metronet Rail BCV Ltd and Metronet Rail SSL Ltd) entered into Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts with London Underground Ltd (LUL), which is now a subsidiary of TfL. Under the PPP agreements, the Metronet companies were responsible for the maintenance, renewal and upgrade of discrete parts of LUL's infrastructure. LUL remains responsible, in the public sector, for delivering services to customers.

The PPP contractual arrangements were accompanied by Put Option Agreements, whereby LUL could be required to purchase Metronet's debt six months after any defined "insolvency event". This borrowing was undertaken to finance the maintenance and renewal of the tube network under the PPP contracts, and was already reflected in planned public spending.

In advance of the entry into the PPP contracts, the Transport Secretary at the time wrote on 7 March 2003 to the providers of finance of Metronet stating:

"The Secretary of State will take into account, among other factors, all the obligations of LUL under any PPP contracts (including obligations under the Put Option Agreement or the Stand Still Agreement) in considering and setting transport grant for the GLA under section 101 of the GLA Act, or in making grants to LRT under section 12 of the LRT Act".

This letter of comfort was notified to Parliament as a contingent liability, and the existence of that letter of comfort has been recorded in successive resource accounts for the Department for Transport, without quantification of the amount in question.

On 18 July 2007, the Metronet companies entered into PPP administration, following a lengthy period of poor performance which led to their insolvency. This constituted an "insolvency event" for the purposes of the Put Option Agreements.

The Put Options were exercised yesterday (5 February), and I have today been advised by TfL that all the conditions for their exercise have been met. Having regard to the commitments in my predecessor's letter of March 2003 and to the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, I will make available to the GLA a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 of £1.7 billion specifically for the use of LUL for the payment of the Put Option Price.

The timetable for payments under the Put Option Agreements means that a cash advance of £1.7 billion is needed from the contingencies fund to make the grant payment. Parliamentary approval for this new expenditure, repaying the contingencies fund advance, will be sought at the earliest opportunity in a supplementary estimate for the Department for Transport.

The net effect of this grant payment and other changes to my Department's resource accounts made as part of the settlement with Transport for London will be £2 billion, that will go through the Operating Cost Statement as capital grants. In addition to the sums associated with the Put Option, this funding provides:

> Additional grant payments to replace planned Metronet borrowing up to 2010 these borrowings were already provided for in planned public expenditure aggregates and so the additional grant does not involve any net increase in public expenditure.
>
> Additional grant payments to give TfL short term flexibility while the costs associated with Metronet's administration remain uncertain.

The settlement gives London Underground the resources needed to manage Metronet's administration, and to support moving toward a more stable long term footing and to continue the work to maintain, renew and upgrade the Underground.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 7 February 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homes and Communities Agency (London)

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): The Housing and Regeneration Bill, currently before Parliament, establishes the Homes and Communities Agency, bringing together, for the first time, land and money to deliver decent, affordable housing and regenerate our communities by creating places where people choose to live. It will give local authorities a clear strategic partner to work with on housing and regeneration, and will enable better and more effective use of a range of assets, resources and funding streams to respond to the particular housing and regeneration problems in different communities.

Work to establish the agency is progressing well. Following his appointment as chief executive designate of the agency, Sir Bob Kerslake has appointed a full time set-up team comprising staff drawn from the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and CLG. The team will lead the delivery of the detailed work necessary to bring the agency into being.

Reflecting the devolved arrangements that operate for the London Development Agency, and the Mayor of London's responsibility to produce a housing strategy for the capital, my predecessor asked Sir Bob Kerslake, chief executive designate of the Homes and Communities Agency, to discuss how the HCA and the Mayor's bodies could most effectively co-operate to meet London's housing and regeneration needs. Following those discussions, I have agreed to their proposal that, once the agency is established, a sub-committee of the HCA board should be set up with specific responsibility for London. The board will be chaired by the Mayor, and the vice chair will be the chief executive of the HCA. The London boroughs will also be actively involved through participation on the sub-committee and involvement in the delivery of individual schemes on the ground. The sub-committee will be supported by a team comprising the London staff of the HCA and staff drawn from the London Development Agency. The team will be able to draw on the resources and assets of both the HCA and the LDA in meeting London's housing and regeneration needs.

Planning Delivery Grant

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today announcing the final allocations of the second tranche of £90 million of planning delivery grant (PDG) for 2007-08. The grant is paid to local authorities to support improvement in the delivery of planning services. Over the period 2003-08 the Government will have made available a total of £605 million through PDG which has played a significant part in raising the profile of planning, providing additional resources for both development management and plan-making, and incentivising improvement in performance against a background of a rapidly increasing number of planning applications.

The total PDG for 2007-08 amounts to £120 million which has been paid in two parts. The first tranche was paid in May 2007.

The grant is performance-related. The aim is to enhance resources for the planning system in a way that drives performance improvement and ensures effective delivery of our objectives for sustainable communities.

Grant allocations are not ring-fenced and authorities have complete discretion in the way they spend this money. However, to encourage investment for the future, 25 per cent. of the total grant paid to any individual authority must be spent on capital. The remaining 75 per cent. can be spent by the local authority on resource or capital budgets.

A copy of the determination and a table showing the local authority allocations is available in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Burton Review (MOD Data Loss)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 21 January 2008 I informed the House about the theft of laptop computers from Ministry of Defence vehicles and premises and announced that, following consultation with the Information Commissioner, I had invited Sir Edmund Burton to undertake a full investigation into the losses. In response to questions I gave an undertaking to the House to provide further details of the Burton Review, including reporting timescales, when they were available. I am now in a position to do so.

I have agreed the following terms of reference for the review with Sir Edmund following consultation with the Information Commissioner:

> To establish the exact circumstances and events that led to the loss by MOD of personal data; to examine the adequacy of the steps taken to prevent any recurrence, and of MOD policy, practice and management arrangements in respect of the protection of personal data more generally; to make recommendations; and to report to MOD's permanent secretary not later than 30 April 2008.

I will make a further statement to the House once Sir Edmund's work has been concluded.

Armed Forces Pay Review Body Report

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The 2008 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has now been published. I wish to express my thanks to the chairman and members of the review body for their report. I am pleased to confirm that the AFPRB's recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2008.

In line with the AFPRB recommendations, the basic military salary for officers and all other ranks will increase by 2.6 per cent. In addition, the AFPRB has recommended an increase to X-factor of 1 per cent. and a restructuring to increase the amount of X-factor paid to officers at Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel and Brigadier (and equivalent) ranks.

The rates of specialist pay (including flying pay, submarine pay, diving pay and hydrographic pay) will also increase by 2.6 per cent. The Government have also accepted the AFPRB's recommendation to introduce additional targeted financial retention incentives for Nuclear Submarine Watchkeepers, Army Vehicle Mechanics, Royal Artillery, RAF Regiment Gunners and Firefighters and a new category of specialist pay for Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel to tackle specific recruitment and retention issues.

The Government remain committed to the Independent Pay Review Body process. This award is consistent with achievement of the Government's 2 per cent. CPI inflation target which helps contribute to low and stable inflation, macroeconomic stability and economic growth.

Copies of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Future Water (Water Strategy for England)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am today publishing the Government's new water strategy "Future Water", together with consultation documents on social and environmental guidance to Ofwat, on surface water drainage and on controls on phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products. The consultations will close on 30 April 2008.

Securing and maintaining water supplies is vital to the prosperity of the country and to the health of people and the environment. In some areas, current supplies are already unsustainable and this situation was exacerbated by the drought in South East England between 2004 and 2006. These pressures are going to get worse as the climate changes, the economy grows, and population increases. Combined with the need to reduce CO_2 emissions from the water industry and from our use of hot water in our homes, this means that we must find ways of improving efficiency, and of reducing demand and wastage.

There is no single answer. What is needed is a combination—or in some areas all—of one or more of the following measures:

1. buildings and appliances that use less water;
2. further reductions in leakage;
3. better information for consumers;
4. improved incentives through metering and block tariffs; and
5. new supply, including possible new reservoirs.

The strategy summarises the action we are taking on all of these.

We will be commissioning an independent review to advise on the future of water charging and metering including whether there is a need to move beyond the current system in which companies in seriously water stressed areas can introduce mandatory metering where there is a clear case for doing so. The review will need to look at social, economic and environmental concerns. Any proposed change would need to include measures, such as tariffs, that help vulnerable customers.

As well as drinking water, we are concerned about the quality of our lakes, rivers and streams. These are affected by discharges from sewage treatment works, and by direct pollution, such as from agriculture. High quality water is important for habitats and ecosystems and is greatly valued for recreation and leisure.

Over the last two decades we have made great improvements to water quality in the environment. This has been achieved mainly through the tightening of controls on pollution from the end of pipes such as the discharge from sewage treatment works. We must now take action on a wider range of pollution including: tackling phosphate pollution of rivers and lakes by phasing out phosphates as an ingredient in laundry cleaning products by 2015; continuing to clean up the water that is discharged from sewage treatment works; and using river basin management plans under the water framework directive to tackle direct pollution of water from agriculture and water run off in urban areas. I am today publishing a consultation on controls on phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products which will consider both voluntary and regulatory control options.

The drought was followed in 2007 by major flooding. While this may seem a different problem, science tells us that both droughts and floods will become more frequent with climate change. I announced on Monday the allocation of funding for flood management, and the outcomes we expect to see from this funding. The floods of 2007 have made us all aware of the need to tackle surface water drainage. A consultation on surface water drainage is being launched today on the recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's 'lessons learned' report. The proposals include introducing surface water management plans to coordinate activity, and clarifying responsibilities for sustainable drainage systems, as well as reviewing the ability of new development to connect surface water automatically to the public sewer.

Alongside the strategy, I am today publishing draft statutory social and environmental guidance to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) for consultation. In reflecting the policies set out in "Future Water", it is one of the ways in which the strategy can begin to be implemented. Following the consultation it will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny as set out in the Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003.

Copies of "Future Water—The Government's Water Strategy for England" and the consultation documents on social and environmental guidance to Ofwat; and surface water drainage have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the website of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

CABINET OFFICE

Absence Management (Civil Service)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): Managing sickness absence continues to be a key priority for the Civil Service.

The latest figures for 2006-07, now available at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp show that Departments need to continue their effort to address this. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Over the past year, Permanent Secretary Management Group have focused on this area and agreed a suite of actions that include:

Guidelines to departments—to help boards assess their current procedures and systems on a "comply or explain" basis

Senior management master classes—a series of events exploring management aspects of the health and wellbeing agenda for senior Civil Service management.

High-impact interventions—a series of good practice case studies from both the public and private sectors on how to achieve a healthy work place has been identified.

From April 2008, Departments are now required to collect, analyse and publish their own sickness absence data each quarter and annually in departmental reports.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council - 25 and 26 January 2008 - Correction to Written Ministerial Statement of 4 February

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): Due to an administrative error the text of my written ministerial statement of the 4 February on the Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council was not issued in its entirety. The full statement is as follows:

The Justice and Home Affairs Informal Council was held on 25 and 26 January 2008 in Ljubljana. My right hon. and noble friend the Attorney-General, the Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. Since it was an informal Council, no formal decisions were taken. The following main issues were discussed:

The first Home Affairs session opened with a report from the presidency on the work of the Future Group on EU Home Affairs. Those not on the group were invited to give their views. All supported the work underway, stressing the need to prioritise data-sharing, both within the EU and co-operation with third countries. In relation to other subject areas, there were suggestions that work might look at the further harmonisation of rules to manage the Schengen area, tighter border controls, measures to bring terrorists to justice and the strengthening of action in the area of civil protection and disaster response. Several delegations also raised the need to ensure that the work of the Home Affairs Group and that of the Justice Future Group were linked more closely. The new European Parliament's civil liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) President, Gérard Deprez, gave a general introduction to the approach of LIBE, stressing their concern for privacy and individual rights.

The presidency concluded that interoperability of databases and the needs of law enforcement should drive future EU policy on data sharing, coupled with thorough data protection. On migration, an integrated approach to management was needed based on Frontex (the EU's border agency), operating across land and sea borders. Links with external policy should be stronger, as should data-sharing, and work with and in third countries. In all these areas the EU should analyse what it already had, and then look at the next steps. The presidency noted that a final report should be prepared under the incoming French presidency, with a view to contributing to the successor to the Hague JHA work programme.

The second session discussed practical cooperation in the field of asylum, with the presidency stressing the need for joint practical projects and asking for views on a European Support Office (ESO) which would oversee all forms of co-operation between member states on the Common European Asylum System. The UK welcomed practical co-operation based on an assesment of why people moved. The Commission said that its proposals on the second stage of the Common European Asylum System were due in July and work on an ESO should start with a feasibility study. All member states agreed that practical co-operation should be strengthened, and that there was a need for more uniform country of origin information. All member states also supported the ESO, but views differed as to its role and staffing. The presidency concluded that work to unify the interpretation of existing instruments, common training, and shared interpretation pool should continue. There was wide support for an ESO, but further work was needed on its tasks and financing. The presidency looked forward to the Commission's ESO study. The Council would be invited to agree conclusions on this at a future session.

The home affairs session closed the official programme with a working lunch, during which Ministers considered the timetable for the implementation of the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II). The Commission and presidency argued that member states had to set and commit to a real timetable for SIS II. More time for testing was needed, but a formal decision had to be taken at the February JHA Council. Ministers agreed with a presidency proposal to remodel the oversight of the SIS II project on similar grounds to that used for SISOne4all, setting up a ministerial level steering group of various member states.

Ministers also had an exchange of views on the Commission's proposal on the use of the passenger name records (PNR) for law enforcement purposes. The Commission stressed the need to prevent terrorism, but protect the privacy and rights of honest travellers. At the presidency's request, the Government presented the UK's experience of using PNR data, with concrete examples of its use, proportionality, and success, with the conclusion that it should be used to detect all forms of crime. While generally favouring the proposal, member states noted that it raised difficult technical and substantive issues, including concerns about data protection. The presidency concluded that there was general support for the proposal, subject to further work on the scope and to ensure data protection.

Over lunch on the second day, Justice Ministers discussed the report on the Justice Future Group. There was no clear conclusion on whether to merge the Home Affairs and Justice Future Groups, though the presidency encouraged Ministers to co-ordinate better with their Home Affairs colleagues.

After lunch, Justice Ministers discussed whether the e-justice portal should be opened to the public and if so how it should be co-ordinated and whether data should remain decentralised. My hon. Friend, the Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle) said that the portal should be opened up, but that issues around data protection and charges for access, if any, had to be carefully considered in each pilot.

The next Justice session focused on the presidency's paper (co-sponsored by the UK) on "Trials in Absentia". The paper was unanimously welcomed as a step forward for EU criminal procedural rights. My right hon. and noble friend the Attorney-General congratulated the presidency on its achievement. The presidency aim to conclude agreement by the end of June.

During their final session, Justice Ministers discussed matters of family law and, in particular, their views in relation to the proposed regulation on maintenance obligations and the proposed regulation on divorce, also known as Rome III. The UK has not opted in to either proposal. In response to a question from the presidency, a majority of Ministers agreed that the recently agreed text on the Hague convention and protocol on maintenance obligations should be signed and ratified as soon as possible, reflecting the UK's position. Further discussions took place on the desirability of eliminating obstacles to the recognition and enforcement of maintenance decisions from other member states. On Rome III, a consensus view emerged that spouses ought to be able to choose the competent jurisdiction and law applicable to their divorce.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The House agreed on 25 October to the introduction of topical debates on an experimental basis for the 2007-08 Session, following the recommendations of the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons in "Revitalising the Chamber: The Role of the Backbench Member"[1].

I am today announcing that I will be conducting a review into the operation of topical debates. The results of the review will be published before the House rises for the summer recess. Any Member wishing to submit their views is asked to do so by 23 May 2008.

While the review is ongoing, I encourage Members to continue to propose subjects for debate, either in writing, via the email link on the home page of the website of the Leader of the House of Commons at: www.commonsleader.gov.uk during weekly business questions or in person.

The criteria used to choose debates have previously been announced to the House: the subject should be topical; the House has not had an opportunity to debate it; it is a matter of public policy; it is a matter of public concern; and it is of international, national or regional importance.

The Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons has also stated its intention to conduct its own review into the operation of topical debates after their first year of operation. The Government intend to submit the outcomes of their own review to the Modernisation Committee for consideration.

I am also proposing that a new system be introduced to improve the openness of the system. I intend on a quarterly basis to issue a written ministerial statement that lists all subjects that have been proposed for debate, other than those discussed at weekly business questions, which are already a matter of public record. The attached table gives such information from the beginning of the process until the end of December.

Subjects Proposed (Other than in Business Questions) for Topical Debates (7 November - 7 December)

Week commencing 12 Nov 2007:

UK relations with Iran (letter)

Climate change (letter)

Barnett formula (email)

Rape and domestic violence (email)

Medal for injured members of the armed forces (email)

Subjects Proposed (Other than in Business Questions) for Topical Debates (7 November - 7 December)

Week commencing 19 Nov 2007:

Public food procurement (letter)

Western Balkans (other)

Farepak (email)

Annapolis peace talks (letter)

Animal disease (letter)

Medal for injured members of the armed forces (letter)

Data protection (other)

Week commencing 26 Nov 2007:

Heathrow (other)

Medal for injured members of the armed forces (letters)

Availability of cheap alcohol (email)

Identity fraud (email)

Week commencing 10 Dec 2007

Farepak (email)

Week commencing 17 Dec 2007

Families at risk (email)

To note: The list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted by letter, email or another method. The list does not include requests made during business questions, or otherwise on the Floor of the House, and that are already a matter of public record. Weeks where there were no requests are not included.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education (Student Support) Regulations

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): I have today laid amended Education (Student Support) Regulations, making changes in the way we support prisoners undertaking full-time higher education courses.

The education of offenders is an integral part of strategies to reduce reoffending. Improving the skills of offenders, helping them to move into jobs, is likely to help break the cycle of reoffending.

Offenders are encouraged to study at all levels, including courses offered by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). We estimate about 590 prisoners are currently studying on part-time distance learning courses, usually provided by the Open University. A smaller number of students study full-time in higher education. They must satisfy attendance criteria agreed by the HEI and the prison governor by, for example, securing release on temporary licence (day release). All prisoners released on temporary licence are subject to regular and rigorous risk assessment by the governor.

Financial support for students attending full-time higher education courses is provided through the Student Loans Company (SLC), in conjunction with relevant local authorities which assess entitlement in accordance with the student support regulations. Support comprises loans for tuition fees and loans and grants for maintenance. Payments for tuition fees are paid by the SLC directly to HEIs.

It has been brought to Ministers' attention that there is a long-established but unjustifiable provision in the student support regulations that has allowed prisoners on full-time courses in higher education to receive financial support in the form of loans and grants for maintenance.

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[1] *HC337 of 13 June 2007*

Payments properly made under the student support regulations will have been in compliance with the law. However, I do not believe that it has ever been the intention of Parliament that prisoners, who are accommodated at public expense, should receive any additional form of financial support for maintenance. Nor do I believe that it is an appropriate use of public money.

Last week, I suspended all student support payments to prisoners with immediate effect. While I am examining this further, I am laying amended Education (Student Support) Regulations today to enable me to prevent any further payments of maintenance support being made. These regulations will come into force on 28 February 2008.

I have taken a number of further immediate steps to ensure that no further successful applications for maintenance support can be made by prisoners.

The permanent secretary of my Department is today writing to higher education providers, requesting that they immediately inform the SLC when offering a prisoner a full-time place at their institution. With the support of the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, the Deputy Director-General of the Prison Service has instructed prison governors to identify all prisoners currently undertaking full-time higher education and to inform any such prisoners that they must not apply for maintenance support. In addition, as soon as the amended regulations come into force, all prison governors will be instructed to inform the SLC if an offender within their establishment is offered a place to study full time in higher education, or is currently a full-time student. These measures will enable the SLC to identify all future applications from prisoners, and assess them in accordance with the amended regulations.

I have also instructed the SLC to continue to identify and review all current and past applications, as well as live cases. We will then provide a complete estimate of the number and cost of payments and our investigations will ensure that all legal requirements were properly complied with.

The decisions of HEIs to accept prisoners as students, and the decision of prison governors to allow their attendance, are taken at local level. The student support regulations do not require an applicant to identify themselves as a prisoner. Nor do regulations provide explicitly for the circumstances of a student who is subsequently subject to a custodial sentence. Individuals may also successfully apply for student support while in prison, for courses that they take up upon release. In addition, since full-time student support was introduced in 1962, prisoners have not been specifically excluded from these regulations. As a result, there is no central list of offenders studying full-time HE courses. Current estimates of the amount of support received are therefore provisional. We have identified 91 prisoners who have received a total of £250,000 of repayable maintenance loans, and £120,000 in maintenance grants in the 2007 calendar year.

Our preliminary investigations suggest that, since current SLC operational systems were put into place in 1998, approximately 250 prisoners have received up to £250,000 in maintenance grants. Where prisoners have received loans, these will be repayable in the usual way. These cases will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

I am minded to conclude that support for offenders studying in higher education, which remains a proper Government objective, should be provided through regulations made specifically for that purpose. In consultation with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, I have asked the Permanent Secretaries of my Department and the Ministry of Justice, drawing upon the wider resources of the civil service, to oversee the SLC's review of cases, in conjunction with relevant local authorities, officials from my Department, the Ministry of Justice and the Prison Service, and to make recommendations to me about the management of support for offenders in full-time higher education.

Although this long-established anomaly applies to full-time higher education in England, I have also informed the Devolved Administrations, further education providers and the Learning and Skills Council on a precautionary basis, in case there are implications for them.

I will endeavour to make further relevant information available to the House prior to any debate on the revised regulations.

JUSTICE

General Commissioners (Amalgamation of Divisions)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have made an Order under Section 2(6) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 amalgamating a number of Divisions as follows:

with effect from 11 February 2008,

the Maidstone Division, the Sevenoaks Division and the Lower South Aylesford Division are merged into one Division called the Maidstone and West Kent Division

the Peterborough Division and the Wisbech Division are merged into one Division called the Peterborough and Wisbech Division

The amalgamation was made at the request of the general commissioners in all the Divisions with the aim of improving the organisational efficiency of the Divisions concerned. Copies of the amalgamation of Divisions of general commissioners have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Prison Service Pay Review Body Report (England and Wales)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the seventh report of the independent Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB) on the pay of governing governors and other operational managers, prison officers and related support grades in England and Wales in

2008 (Cm 7325). I would like to thank the Chair and members of the PSPRB for their hard work in producing these recommendations.

The recommendations include a 2.2 per cent. consolidated increase to the minimum and maximum of the operational support grade and prison officer and the maxima of other operational support staff and other operational managerial pay scales.

The PSPRB also recommended a restructuring of the operational support grades pay scale and a 2.7 per cent. increase to the minimum of the principal officer pay scale, the senior officer single salary point and the maximum of the highest paid operational managers.

The Government remain committed to the independent Pay Review Body process. This award is consistent with the achievement of the Government's 2 per cent. CPI inflation target which helps contribute to low and stable inflation, macroeconomic stability and economic growth. I am pleased to confirm that the PSPRB's recommendations will be implemented in full from 1 April 2008. The cost of the award will be met from within the delegated budget allocation for the Prison Service.

The key Pay Review Body recommendations are:

Support Grades

a 2.2 per cent. consolidated increase to the minimum and maximum of the operational support grade, and the maximum of other operational staff pay scales;

a restructuring of the operational support grades pay scale;

Prison Officers

a 2.2 per cent. consolidated increase to the minimum and maximum of the prison officer pay scale;

Continuation of incremental increases for prison officers within the pay scale;

Senior Officers

a 2.7 per cent. consolidated increase to the senior officer single salary point;

Principal Officers

a 2.2 per cent. consolidated increase to the maximum and a 2.7 per cent. increase to the minimum of the principal officer scale;

Operational Managers

a 2.7 per cent. consolidated increase to the highest paid operational managers and a 2.2 per cent. consolidated increase to the maximum of other operational managerial pay scales.

Decoupling of the operational manager pay spine into seven separate pay ranges;

Continuation of performance-related increases for operational managers within the pay range.

TRANSPORT

Dartford Crossing

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): In December 2006, the Department consulted on proposals to revise the charges for use of the Dartford—Thurrock River Crossing. The consultation noted that: without any charges traffic levels would be substantially higher than they are now, leading to extensive congestion; that even with the current charge levels, usage levels are leading to regular congestion and occasional very severe congestion; and that without action the likelihood of severe congestion will increase.

The consultation document proposed: an increase in tolls for those paying by cash; substantial reductions for those choosing to pay on account using a DART—Tag to register their charge; and the removal of night time charges for all vehicles, when congestion is less of a problem. The intention was to continue to apply an effective pricing signal given growing congestion pressures while at the same time providing an incentive for more people to opt for alternatives to paying cash, thereby easing flow through the charging booths.

In the run-up to the consultation exercise suggestions were put forward that local residents should benefit from a substantial discount for use of the crossing. The Government invited views on these suggestions.

Substantial numbers of people expressed a desire to see a local discount scheme. Details are set out in the summary of responses to that consultation, which is published on the DfT website at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/dftconsuldartford/dartsumconsul.

On 2 April 2007 the Department announced that it would develop a local discount scheme for further consultation, noting that any scheme had to be fair to both local residents and the tax payer.

I am announcing today our proposals. These are that:

(i) Private cars should be eligible for discounts when used by residents of Dartford and Thurrock local authority areas.

(ii) There will be a £10 annual registration fee which will entitle residents of these areas to 50 free one-way journeys per year. Thereafter journeys will be charged at 20p each. (London charges the same annual £10 fee for those who make use of their residents' discount scheme).

(iii) To benefit from the discount residents will need to register annually and apply for an electronic "tag" that is fitted in the windscreen of the nominated vehicle. The tag will be provided free of charge but a £10 charge will be levied for replacement of lost or damaged tags.

The Government's intention is that the discount scheme should be implemented alongside the other changes to the charging regime on which we consulted in December 2006. This includes the possibility for any car user, regardless of where they live, to use the Crossing for the current £1 rate if they opt to use a tag and open an account.

Our December 2006 consultation document made clear that if a local discount scheme were introduced then all revenues would go towards national transport projects. Therefore the current arrangement, under which a proportion of revenues from the crossing (£1.75 million) is made available to help deliver integrated transport policies in the Dartford and Thurrock areas, would be discontinued.

The consultation document will be published next week and copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The consultation exercise will run for 12 weeks from the date of publication.

The Government will make every effort to ensure that the new charges, including the local discount scheme, can be implemented in the autumn of 2008, subject to being able to complete the necessary technical work to that timescale. Given that the Government have put forward a clear statement of their preferred approach, work has already started to put in place the necessary systems and processes. A further announcement about the precise start date for the new regime will be made at the end of the consultation period.

Petitions

Monday 28 January 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Mail Centre (Coventry)

The Petition of the Communication Workers Union, Coventry Area Branch,

Declares that they do not agree with Royal Mail's Decision to close the mail centre in Coventry in order to open a new Mail Centre in Northamptonshire instead. They believe that to maintain the quality of service they currently receive, as customers of Royal Mail, Coventry and Warwickshire needs to have a Mail Centre based in Coventry.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Royal Mail to rescind its decision to close the Mail Centre in Coventry in 2009 and instead either maintain the Mail Centre at its current location or build a new Mail Centre in Coventry.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jim Cunningham, Official Report*, 18 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 823 .] [P000096]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

Under the Government's postal sector reforms, Royal Mail was given greater commercial freedom as the management and unions wanted. Government has an arm's length relationship as a shareholder and the Board of the company has responsibility for decisions relating to operational matters.

It is for Royal Mail to ensure that its network operations are as efficient as possible to enable it to meet the challenges of changing customer demands and expectations in a liberalised postal market.

Royal Mail believes that the existing mail centres (Coventry and Northampton) do not offer sufficient potential for redevelopment and limit the scope for badly needed automation. Royal Mail's plan is to optimise cost savings while ensuring that the £70 million investment optimises operational efficiency.

Royal Mail have made it clear that quality of service will be maintained and enhanced as a result of any change. The point of these changes is to improve operational efficiency. Postcomm and Postwatch will as a matter of course monitor any effect on quality of service and will quickly raise with Royal Mail any deterioration of service. There is no formal requirement for Royal Mail to consult over this kind of operational change.

Post Office Closures (New Forest)

The Petition of Mr Desmond Swayne MP and other customers of Bramshaw Post Office in the New Forest,

Declares that the loss of this Post Office will have a devastating effect on the welfare of numerous vulnerable and elderly residents of the village.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to reverse the proposal to close this indispensable branch.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Julian Lewis, Official Report*, 13 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 567 .] [P000086]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for the New Forest area finished on 26 November 2007 and in announcing its final decisions on 4 January Post Office Ltd confirmed that the Bramshaw Post Office will close. Post Office Ltd published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

TRANSPORT

M25 Noise Pollution

The Petition of residents of Chorleywood and others from the Constituency of South West Hertfordshire and others,

Declares that a large number of homes which are very close to the M25 near and between Junctions 17 and 18 suffer from considerable noise pollution from the motorway and that the forthcoming widening of the M25 will exacerbate this problem.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport and the Highways Agency to take effective measures to reduce the level of noise produced by the M25 near and between Junctions 17 and 18, including the provision of low noise surfacing of the motorway and effective noise-absorbing fencing.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Gauke, Official Report,* 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 432 .] [P000084]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Highways Agency is planning to carry out major improvements on the M25 between Junctions 16 to 23 from 2009. This section of motorway is close to the towns of Chorleywood and Rickmansworth. This work will involve increasing the motorway width by one lane in each direction. This widening has been designed so that it can be carried out entirely within existing highway land.

It is a priority for any such schemes to take account of the impact on the local environment and local residents. To this end extensive studies have been carried out in the area affected. The findings of these were published in an Environmental Statement on 23 August 2007, which was available to be viewed and commented on for 12 weeks until 15 November 2007.

The biggest issue concerning residents has been noise levels from the motorway and potential increases as a result of the works. This was also a key concern in the environmental studies carried out.

These studies have shown that as a result of the low noise surfacing and improvements to noise barriers the majority of affected properties will experience a reduction in noise compared with the 'no widening' option, while the increase in noise for virtually all the remaining properties will be at levels which are barely discernible

As a result the Environmental Statement has set out a commitment to provide low noise surfacing over the full width of the widened sections of carriageway. In addition there is a commitment to improve some existing noise barriers in the area and install some new ones. These commitments have been viewed by local residents at a series of public exhibitions.

The Highways Agency has reviewed the proposals for noise mitigation measures in the Environmental Statement in the light of the comments arising from these exhibitions. The Minister with responsibility for roads, my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Tom Harris) also met with David Gauke MP to discuss the proposed noise mitigation measures. The Minister was satisfied that the published proposals were appropriate and fully complied with the Secretary of State's obligations. The Minister agreed that existing barriers near junction 18 should be inspected and repaired if necessary as part of the widening scheme.

Petitions

Tuesday 29 January 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Brighton)

The Petition of those affected by the closure of the Preston Road Post Office in Brighton,

Declares that they protest against the closure of 221 Preston Road Post Office. That it is an excellent facility and is well-used by the local community. That they will have no Post Office if the closure goes ahead as the alternative facilities are not accessible by public transport and involve walking up very steep hills—impossible for the elderly or those with limited mobility. And that driving is a bad option environmentally. Parking is already at a premium near the Post Offices in Preston Drove and Matlock Road.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to the Post Office Ltd. so that the 221 Preston Road, Brighton, Post Office remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Lepper, Official Report,* 4 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 805 .] [P000073]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1 7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the post office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million social network payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Sussex finished on 24 December 2007 and Post Office Ltd is expected to announce final decisions on 29 January 2008.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The review process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of those affected by the closure of the 13 Preston Road Post Office in Brighton,

Declares that they believe that local Post Offices play a vital role in community life and value the service given by Post Office staff. That the closure of the branch at 13 Preston Road will leave residents and businesses in this part of Preston Road and Preston Circus area with no easily accessible Post Office. Lack of public transport links and steep hills make one of the alternative branches named by the Post Office Ltd inappropriate and there is no guarantee of the long-term future of London Road Co-op Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make representations to the Post Office Ltd. to withdraw its closure proposals for the Post Office at 13 Preston Road, Brighton.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Lepper, Official Report,* 5 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 933 .] [P000077]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £17 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the post office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million social network payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Leicester)

The Petition of Mr Shah and others,

Declares that Willowbrook Road Post Office plays an important role in the survival of the local community, and that its closure would bring about further deprivation to an already disadvantaged community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs to make arrangements to ensure that the proposed closure of the Willowbrook Road Post Office does not go ahead

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Keith Vaz, Official Report,* 18 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 825 .] [P000097]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Leicestershire ended on 10 January. Final decisions on the closure proposals in the Leicestershire area plan are scheduled to be announced by POL on 1st February.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of the residents of Little Harrowden, Great Harrowden, Orlingbury, Pytchley and surrounding areas,

Sheweth

That we oppose the closure of our Post Office in Little Harrowden. Such a closure would cause an immense amount of hardship, especially for elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups. It would lead to the closure of the only shop in the village and would reguire the numerous customers of Little Harrowden Post Office to travel more than two miles along a major road with no footpath to the nearest alternative Post Office.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to halt the closure of Little Harrowden Post Office.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report*, 11 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 272 .] [P000079]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Northamptonshire ended on 10 January. Final decisions are scheduled for 1st February. Post Office Ltd will publish their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet available on their website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Wednesday 30 January 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Cholmondeley and its neighbouring districts,

Declares that the community value as well as the services available at Cholmondeley Post Office are vital and must be maintained.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to retain Cholmondeley Post Office and the full services that our post offices provide to local people and the most vulnerable groups in our communities; and further requests that the Government and Post Office Ltd. withdraw their plans and undertake an honest review to examine how, rather than destroying our Post Offices, we can secure their tong term future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 673 .] [P000091]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cheshire finished on 17 December 2007and Post Office Ltd announced its final decisions on 22 January. POL have published their decision to replace the Chomondeley Branch with an Outreach service in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Cheshire area, which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of residents of Meadowbank and its neighbouring districts,

Declares that the community value as well as the services available at Meadowbank Post Office are vital and must be maintained.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to retain Meadowbank Post Office and the full services that our post offices provide to local people and the most vulnerable groups in our communities; and further requests that the Government and Post Office Ltd. withdraw their plans and undertake an honest review to examine how, rather than destroying our Post Offices, we can secure their tong term future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 673 .] [P000092]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October 2007 and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cheshire finished on 17 December 2007and Post Office Ltd announced decisions on 22 January. POL have confirmed the closure of the Meadowbank Branch in their Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Cheshire area, including Meadowbank, which is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of residents of Tilston and its neighbouring districts ,

Declares that the community value as well as the services available at Tilston Post Office are vital and must be maintained.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to retain Tilston Post Office and the full services that our post offices provide to local people and the most vulnerable groups in our communities; and further requests that the Government and Post Office Ltd. withdraw their plans and undertake an honest review to examine how, rather than destroying our Post Offices, we can secure their tong term future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 674 .] [P000093]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

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POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Thanet)

The Petition of Roger Latchford of Birchington in Kent and residents of Thanet.

Declares that the proposed reduction in the number of Post Offices serving our communities will be socially damaging and is unwelcome.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government, as the major shareholder in Post Office Ltd., to withdraw the current proposals and review the funding of the Post Office network.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Roger Gale, Official Report, 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 643.]* [P000051]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Kent finished on 12 November 2007 and Post Office Ltd published their final in an Area Plan Decision Booklet on 6 December. This is available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch.

The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Wirral)

The Petition of Mr Brian Kewley, Postmaster and the customers of Lower Heswall Post Office, Wirral,

Declares that the proposal to close the Post Office will have a disproportionate impact on the community it serves due to the large proportion of elderly people who rely on the service, the nearest alternative Post Office which has little parking availability and is served by an infrequent bus service, being up a steep hill which presents problems for many of the customers, and the extent to which other traders in the Village rely on people coming to the Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to review urgently, with the Post Office, the policy of branch closures with a view to maintaining a Post Office service in the Village of Lower Heswall.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 11 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 271 .] [P000059]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for the Wirral area finished on 18 December 2007 and final decisions were published on 22 January 2008. Post Office Ltd have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Wirral available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange confirming the closure of the (Lower) Heswall Village Branch.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

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> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of Mr Temple, Postmaster and the customers of Lancelyn Court Post Office,

Declares that the proposal to close the Post Office will have a disproportionate impact on the community it serves due to the large proportion of elderly people who rely on the service; the existing and new developments near to the Post Office which are designed to hold over 100 pensioners and an additional number of disabled people, and the fact that the development had surely been planned with the convenient location of Lancelyn Court Post Office in mind; the extent to which other traders in the Village rely on people coming to the Post Office; the infrequent bus service serving the nearest alternative Post Offices; the busy road it is necessary to cross in order to reach the first alternative Post Office (which has no parking facilities) and the descent and climb necessary to reach the second alternative Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to review urgently, with the Post Office, the policy of branch closures with a view to maintaining Lancelyn Court Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report, 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 430.]* [P000060]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to [illegible]1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for the Wirral area finished on 18 December 2007 and final decisions were published on 22 January 2008. Post Office Ltd have confirmed that the Lancelyn Court Branch will close and have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Wirral available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Thursday 31 January 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Threapwood and its neighbouring districts.

Declares that that the community value as well as the services available at Threapwood Post Office are vital and must be maintained.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government and Post Office Ltd. to retain Threapwood Post Office and the full services that our post offices provide to local people and the most vulnerable groups in our communities; and further requests that the Government and Post Office Ltd. withdraw their plans and undertake an honest review to examine how, rather than destroying our Post Offices, we can secure their long term future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 365, c. 620 .] [P000094]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Cheshire finished on 17 December 2007 and Post Office Ltd announced its decision to replace the Threapwood Branch with an outreach service on 22 January. POL have published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for the Cheshire area which will be available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

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The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

JUSTICE

Dangerous Drivers

The Petition of Mrs Catherine McDermott and residents of South Yorkshire .

Declares that 7 year old Kyle McDermott was killed by a hit and run driver on 11/09/06. The driver had 2 previous convictions for drink driving but was sentenced to just 5 months in prison.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Secretary of State for Justice to urgently review the current sentencing policy for this type of offence with a view to introducing much stiffer penalties.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jeff Ennis, Official Report,* 29 October 2007; Vol. 465, c. 620 .] [P000116]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government takes the issue raised very seriously and would like to highlight the following points in response:

Current sentencing policy

The charges brought against an individual following a road traffic incident are dependent upon the Crown Prosecution Service's assessment of the quality of the defendant's driving, both preceding and at the time of impact. When considering the appropriate charge, it is the driving behaviour that is the deciding factor, that is, whether the driver was careless or dangerous, rather than the outcome of the incident, however tragic.

There are differing degrees of culpability on the part of drivers involved in fatal accidents and therefore a range of driving offences a driver can be prosecuted for. If a driver is, as a result of substandard driving, held responsible for the death of a person, the Crown Prosecution Service may currently select from the following charges: death by dangerous driving, death by careless driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, aggravated vehicle taking where death occurs, and manslaughter. The first three of these charges carry a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment, for offences committed on or after the 27 February 2004. Manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The offence of careless driving is at present only punishable with a fine or community penalty, regardless of the consequences.

Failure to stop, which attracts a maximum penalty of 6 months' imprisonment, can be taken into account in sentencing as an aggravating feature, making it more likely that a driver who has failed to stop and is prosecuted for a bad driving offence, such as causing death by dangerous driving, will receive a higher sentence than a person who has remained at the scene and reported the accident.

Introduction of new offences and sentences

The Road Safety Act 2006 includes a new offence of causing death by careless driving, with a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment, and a new offence of causing death whilst driving disqualified, unlicensed, or uninsured, with a maximum penalty of 2 years. Fleeing the scene will continue to be an aggravating factor and can of course be charged as a separate offence as well.

We expect these new offences to be implemented in 2008 following intense and necessary scrutiny by the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

The new offence of causing death by careless driving and the maximum penalty it carries means that the fatal consequences of careless driving are, for the first time, an element of the offence, where no alcohol or drugs are involved, and makes available a custodial sentence if appropriate.

Petitions

Tuesday 5 February 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Farepak

The Petition of those affected by the collapse of Farepak,

Declares that the collapse of Farepak in October 2006 caused 122,000 people to lose their Christmas savings; that many families suffered financially and emotionally from that loss; and that they deserve reimbursement. Furthermore, it has been over a year since the collapse of Farepak and it is unlikely, according to the administrators, that any money will be paid back to its customers by Christmas this year.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Prime Minister to speed up the process of paying money back to the affected customers before Christmas this year; and further urges that if any culpability is found against any of the directors of Farepak that action will be taken and will he ensure that previous honours bestowed to them, if any, will be removed.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jessica Morden, Official Report, 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 432 .]* [P000082]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

Shortly after the collapse of Farepak Food & Gifts Limited, in October 2006, the then Secretary of State for the DTI, Alistair Darling, confirmed that an investigation into Farepak and other companies in the European Home Retail Group had been commenced.

The question of action against any of the Directors of Farepak, or against directors of the European Home Retail Group of which it is a part, will be considered as soon as the investigation has been completed. Such action could take the form of prosecution, disqualification and/or disclosure of information to the Accountancy & Actuarial Discipline Board (AIDE) regarding the conduct of those directors who are accountants. The AIDE has announced its own investigation into the conduct of certain members of professional accountancy bodies who were involved in the events leading up to the collapse of European Home Retail and Farepak.

Ministers cannot intervene in the conduct of the individual Insolvency procedure, which is subject to the overall supervision of the court. The liquidators continue to work closely with the Creditors Committee, which represents the 122,000 creditors.

The liquidators have advised that there are a number of factors which mean they cannot say when a dividend can be paid.

The liquidators are still pursuing monies for the benefit of creditors. For example, as previously reported, in the days leading up to the collapse of Farepak, the directors tried to establish a Trust to ring fence money paid by creditors. However, the Trust was not set up correctly so the administrators applied to Court to determine whether the Trust is valid. The length of time this process takes is now in the hands of the Courts.

Because of the extremely large number of creditors, paying out a dividend will inevitably be a costly process. The liquidators have always sought to work in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible in order to maximise the funds available to creditors. Therefore they are working to ensure that, as far as possible, all monies are realised before paying the dividend, in order to keep the administration costs involved in this process to a minimum and to maximise funds available to creditors.

All 122,000 agents' and customers' claims must be finalised before a payment can be made. As well as processing claims, the liquidators' staff have had a huge task in verifying claims and double checking that claims have not been duplicated by agents and customers. This work so far has reduced claims by approximately 2.25 million for the benefit of creditors. In some cases customers and agents have been written to in order to check details of their claim and some of the responses from these customers are still outstanding.

JUSTICE

Family Courts (Reform)

The Petition of Sally Ann Cooke,

Declares that Sally Ann Cooke has been imprisoned wrongly in the UK as a result of advice from the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). That CAFCASS prevented her obtaining access to justice. That CAFCASS obtained a Court Order which allowed her only 3 hours contact each year. In 2006, she obtained only 2 hours contact with her daughter. CAFCASS advised that she was in need of "psychological therapy". This "medically unfit" allegation has now been disproven by specialist medical examination.

CAFCASS prevented her moving her daughter's medical records at the threat of having her daughter put into care.

CAFCASS did commence care proceedings, which were not supported by social services. CAFCASS requested that her place at school be kept open, which the education authority refused, as she had moved out of the area.

The Petitioner wishes to have the case reviewed in open court to enable her to prove that she is a fit and able mother and have reasonable contact with her daughter.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government legislate to create greater transparency in the family courts to prevent such miscarriages of justice in the future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Dai Davies, Official Report, 11 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 271 .]* [P000072]

Observations from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Justice:

This petition raises some extremely serious issues and the Government make the following reply:

Complaints about the level of service received from CAFCASS rest in the first instance with the organisation itself. CAFCASS has a detailed complaint procedure in place, which can be accessed through its website at: www.CAFCASS.gov.uk/about_CAFCASS/feedback.aspx, or through any of its offices in England. The CAFCASS complaints procedures offer the opportunity for any service users, whatever their status in a case, to raise concerns with CAFCASS about how CAFCASS has worked with them.

If Ms Sally Ann Cooke has already submitted a written complaint to CAFCASS but is not happy with the way it was handled, she could refer her complaint to her Member of Parliament who can then contact the independent parliamentary and health service ombudsman on her behalf. This ombudsman deals with the complaints of members of the public who feel that they have suffered unjustly because of the maladministration by Government Departments and public sector organisations like CAFCASS. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman reviews cases when concerns are raised about how complaint procedures have been applied in any given matter. It can examine how CAFCASS has handled situations, but cannot comment on professional opinions and outcomes in court proceedings. As such there is a provision for complainants to make representations to CAFCASS itself in respect of the handling of their case by CAFCASS.

CAFCASS and Mr Dai Davies MP have informed my officials that the case of Ms Sally Ann Cooke is currently before a court. It would therefore not be appropriate for the Government to intervene in this matter or comment on the facts of the case.

The petitioner requests that the case of Sally Ann Cooke be reviewed in open court. The decision to review and hold a case in open court is a judicial matter for the courts to decide on a case by case basis. Such decisions would necessarily need to be made by the court based on its consideration of the best interests of the child. This would include the consideration that publicity around the case could in fact be harmful to the child whilst at the same time being desired by the mother. There are of course appellate procedures open to any person dissatisfied with the outcome of a judicial decision in family or any other matters.

Finally, the petitioner urges the Government to legislate to create greater transparency in family courts. The Government have undertaken two public consultations on this important issue. In 2006, the then Department for Constitutional Affairs published the consultation paper, "Confidence and Confidentiality: Improving Transparency and Privacy in Family Courts". In that paper we asked for views on a range of proposals, in particular to allow the media into family courts as of right. Responses varied considerably. Responses from the media supported the proposal to allow the media automatic access into courts. Children, young people and the organisations that protect, support and represent them all indicated that allowing the media automatic access could jeopardise children's rights to privacy and anonymity.

Respondents to the first consultation also wanted more information about the family courts and the decisions they make, and rules about who can attend and what can be reported to be simple and consistent across the different tiers of family courts.

They also wanted children involved in proceedings to have information retained for them until they are adults.

These responses informed our second consultation, "Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in Family Courts—a New Approach", which was published in June 2007. The second consultation paper set out our new approach, which focuses on improving openness not by the number of people going into family courts, but by the amount and quality of information coming out. It also announced that the Government would make the rules on attendance and reporting the same across the family courts; and allow the media and others with an interest in a case to apply to attend.

The Government also announced that a pilot was to be set up, with the purpose of providing better information to people involved in family proceedings. This information will be given to the parties involved and retained for the children involved to access when they are adults.

We remain committed to improving the openness of family courts but we are not prepared to jeopardise the privacy of children to achieve this. We are still considering the outcome of our second consultation and what further steps to take. We will publish our response in the spring.

OLYMPICS

2012 Olympic Tax Levy

The Petition of Members of Bexley Pensioners' Forum and others,

Declares that they object to the "Olympic Tax Levy" on London Council tax payers, without their consent. The London 2012 Olympic Games plans submitted to the International Olympic Committee emphasised that the 2012 Olympic Games would, and must be, of benefit to all areas of the United Kingdom. That being the case, Londoners should not be the only section of the UK population to have a special Olympic Tax imposed on them.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to reconsider the impostition of the Olympic Tax on Londoners and further caps any losses being passed on to London Council taxpayers.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Evennett, Official Report,* 4 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 805 .] [P000071]

Observations from the Minister for the Olympics and London:

The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are working hard to ensure the benefits of the

Games reach across the UK via volunteering, business and employment, tourism, culture. As can be seen from previous Games, all host cities contribute to their cost on a varying scale and the benefits will be felt most in London as the host city. They for example have triggered an unprecedented investment in London's future, which is why Londoners are being asked to make their fair contribution towards the Games, as the Mayor believes is right. The council tax remains at this time the only mechanism for this to be achieved.

In June 2003 Government and the Mayor agreed that the London council-tax payer will contribute £625 million to the Games—this has not changed and it could only be changed with the agreement of the Government and the Mayor. However the Mayor has made it quite clear that he thinks it would be wrong for there to be any further contribution to the cost of the Games from the council tax, effectively freezing the Olympic element of the council tax precept.

As London will be a major beneficiary of the Games and its legacy, it is considered fair that Londoners should contribute to the costs, and this is reflected in the revised Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Government and the Mayor on 27 June 2007.

The London Games will be the biggest regeneration project in Europe. And for the first time in Olympic history, the Games themselves and the legacy are part of the same overall plan. The Lower Lea Valley - the site for the Olympic Park—is scarred by derelict, polluted land and many generations of under-investment. It is also home to some of the most deprived communities in the country. The Olympics project provides a real opportunity to concentrate the regeneration ambitions of the Thames Gateway in the Lower Lea Valley and accommodate the growth of London as a world city in a sustainable way.

Following the announcement of the revised budget for the Games in March 2007, the Exchequer—funded by the taxpayers of the United Kingdom - is meeting 64% of the costs, the Lottery 23%, the London council tax payers 7%, and the London Development Agency 6%.

The Olympics attracts broad cross-party support. It is welcomed across London and the UK. In a recent survey over 80% of Londoners were enthusiastic towards the Games, and thought that it would have a positive effect on London.

The revised funding package announced on March 2007 included a provision of over £2 billion for contingency.

Petitions

Wednesday 6 February 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Employment and Human Rights

The Petition of Mr Pinakin Pandya,

Declares that his rights under s.54 (1) and s.64 (1)(ii) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 not to be unfairly dismissed until the attainment of the State's retirement age, have been breached. Further declares that his rights under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Employment Rights Act 1996, the Race Relations Act 1976, the Employment Tribunal Practice and Rules and the Court of Appeal's Civil Procedure Rules, House of Lords Rules, and the European Court of Human Rights Rules, have been denied. Further declares that his rights under articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been breached by the UK, the European Court of Human Rights, and the United Nations, culminating in failure of the judicial system.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review the Human Rights Act insofar as it relates to employment tribunals and legislation.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. [P000121]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures

The Humble Petition of Joan Holder, Huby Post Office, York and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That they fear the proposed Post Office Network review will result in unacceptable numbers of Post Office closures. They wish to see their access to Post Offices across North Yorkshire remain as wide as is currently the case and that there be no further cuts in postal services. They recognise that their Post Offices provide a vital service in a rural community to the most vulnerable, the elderly, the less mobile and those with young families.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to reverse the Post Office's proposed Network Change Programme.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Miss Anne McIntosh, Official Report,* 21 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1325.] [P000109]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for North Yorkshire with Yorkshire East and Keighley finished on 17 January 2008 and POL are expected to announce final decisions on 8 February 2008.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Harrogate and Knaresborough)

The Petition of residents, employees in and visitors to the Borough of Harrogate and Knaresborough and all those seriously concerned about the decision of the Post Office to review the future of High Harrogate Sub Post Office, 19 Devonshire Place, Harrogate; Leeds Road Sub Post Office, 11 Leeds Road, Harrogate; and Stockwell Sub Post Office, 2 Chain Lane, Knaresborough.,

Declares the importance of these Sub Post Offices to thousands of people living, working in and visiting Harrogate and Knaresborough and surrounding areas, including the more elderly and disabled; and reminds Members of Parliament of the number of closures of Local Sub Post Offices in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area over recent years.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to make clear to the Post Office the importance of these Offices continuing as a Sub Post Office and the benefit of withdrawing as soon as possible any proposals which put at risk any of the existing services provided from this Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Phil Willis, Official Report,* 14 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 761.] [P000105]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

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The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;

where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 January 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff of the House were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181350]

Nick Harvey: The number of personal digital assistants (PDAs) issued centrally since 2001 to staff of the House of Commons totals 79. A breakdown of the figures by year of purchase and gender of the recipient is given in the following table.

	Male	*Female*	*Shared use/no specific owner*
2001	0	0	0
2002	10	3	0
2003	0	0	0
2004	1	0	1
2005	10	12	1
2006	8	4	1
2007	10	9	9
Total	39	28	12

A small number of PDAs have been issued over the years to staff directly by House departments before the creation of PICT in 2006, but detailed records do not exist.

House of Commons: Catering

Robert Key: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the use of *(a)* free-range chicken, eggs, other poultry and pork, *(b)* organic food and *(c)* fair trade products in House of Commons catering. [181954]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Free-range chicken, eggs, other poultry and pork: free range chicken accounted for 10 per cent. of the catering service's total chicken purchases for calendar year 2007. The catering service has quickly reacted to recent consumer demand and increase in awareness and have now completely moved away from intensively reared poultry. A species called Devonshire Red has been sourced which is corn fed and Freedom Foods (RSPCA) monitored; currently discussions are taking place with the supplier for a longer term relationship if consistency of supply and price can be guaranteed.

Since February 2002 catering services have purchased only free range eggs from Ashford in Kent and in 2007 were awarded a Good Egg Award which recognised continued leadership on eggs, helping to promote animal welfare and corporate social responsibility in the food industry.

Apart from chicken, no other poultry purchases are free range or Freedom Foods monitored. However the Purchasing Department is currently engaged in the sourcing of better quality, higher welfare products to include turkey, duck, and guinea fowl.

Pork purchases are all classed as free range and come from West Sussex.

(b) Organic food: the catering service does not keep records that specifically identify organic purchases and so it is not possible to put a value on this expenditure. The issues of consistency and availability are still prevalent in this area, consequently purchasing of organic products is restricted to branded, pre-packed goods, such as sandwiches, salads, yoghurts, biscuits, cakes, etc. which offer some guarantee and assurances of quality.

(c) Fair trade products: in 2007 the catering service purchased 72 fair trade food and beverage products throughout the estate including fresh fruit, juices, coffee, tea, chocolate, cakes, cookies, biscuits, tropical whole foods, smoothies and sugar. Spend for these items was £62,137. 11 fair trade souvenir items are available for sale, for example wooden picture frames (India), stationery (Nepal), coffee (Kenya). A regular supply of fair trade chocolate is currently being arranged. Two fair trade wines are sold in the House's dining and banqueting rooms. Fair-trade products are used when supply and quality can be guaranteed.

Robert Key: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the origin of veal products used in House of Commons catering. [181955]

Nick Harvey: Over the last year, the catering service has spent approximately £5,000 on veal, 40 per cent. on meat including offal (£2,000) and the remainder on bones (£3,000).

The majority (91 per cent.) of veal meat products purchased are small speciality cuts, and come from a well-established company in Holland (as do all the bones). It is the world's largest veal producer and has an excellent traceability system (back to a specific animal) and a guarantee that the veal is free of growth promoters, hormones and b-agonists. Quality systems are based on HACCP and are BRC compliant which surpass international standards. Animal welfare is of utmost importance and the calves are given diets that are high in fibre (and not iron deficient), generous space allowances, and adequate bedding. All the calves are accommodated in groups in spacious, well-ventilated and well-lit stables.

The remainder (9 per cent.) was purchased from UK suppliers which have the highest standards and best welfare practices for veal production, but not the availability and consistency of supply.

Norman Shaw Buildings

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will bring forward plans to construct a canopy to protect people walking between Norman Shaw South and Norman Shaw North from rain; and if he will make a statement. [181685]

Nick Harvey: There is a covered bridge at second floor level between Norman Shaw North and South buildings which protects people from rain. At present there are no plans to construct a canopy at ground floor.

Political Activities

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance has been provided to staff employed by the Commission on the extent to which they can engage in political activity in their spare time; and what political restrictions exist for each grade of staff. [181314]

Nick Harvey: The House's rules relating to engagement in political activity by staff are set out in contracts of employment and the House of Commons staff handbook. Political restrictions depend on the nature of the work undertaken by the postholder rather than their level in the organisation. A copy of the staff handbook is available on the Department of Resources intranet site.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games: Shooting Events

4. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the merits of the venue for the shooting events at the 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [182019]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) on 10 September 2007.

Outline assessments during the bid phase were conducted on the basis of providing the overlay required to stage shooting events at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley. However, during the bidding phase, the International Olympic Committee commented on the distance between Bisley and the Olympic Park. On the basis of this feedback, and following consultation with the International Shooting Federation and British Shooting (the national governing body), the Royal Artillery barracks at Woolwich was selected as the shooting venue, due to its iconic location and its close proximity to the Olympic Park and Village. These factors will improve the athlete and spectator experience by limiting travel and making it easier to attend other Games events on the same day in the Olympic Park.

LOCOG will work with the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office and Greenwich Council to see what legacy can be left behind in Woolwich after the Games.

Olympic Games: London

5. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her objectives are for the legacy of the Olympic Games in London. [182020]

Tessa Jowell: The Mayor of London leads on the delivery of the legacy of the 2012 Games. He recently published his "Five Legacy Commitments" which set out in detail how the 2012 Games will make a huge and permanent impact on London. This includes creating new homes (9,000 in and around the Olympic Park and an additional 30,000 in the wider lower Lea valley) and 50,000 new job opportunities, as well as new sporting facilities for community and elite use.

In addition, London's transport network will benefit from a £10 billion investment, leading to 50 per cent. extra capacity on the DLR, an extended east London line, an improved London overground network, extra capacity on the Jubilee line and new walking and cycling routes.

Olympic Site

6. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make a statement on progress on developing the 2012 Olympic site. [182021]

Tessa Jowell: Excellent progress has been made in the last 12 months and we remain on track to achieve site preparation targets by the start of the Games in Beijing this summer.

We are now at an advanced stage in the land clearance, with demolition work on the five permanent venue sites already completed.

And last week saw further progress with cabling work completed in one of the two underground tunnels that will carry the power around the Park.

Olympic Games 2012: Industrial Health and Safety

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will hold discussions with the Health and Safety Executive about on-site construction safety standards at the Olympic site in Stratford. [182018]

Tessa Jowell: I am determined that the Olympic Park site will be a leading example in health and safety performance, and that we will go beyond regulatory compliance to ensure performance remains consistently high.

The ODA has published a comprehensive health and safety statement in July 2007 and this is being rigorously implemented and monitored.

The HSE has appointed its London Regional Director as its head of London 2012 regulatory activities and the HSE regularly inspect the site to assess health, safety and environment conditions.

Already there is robust evidence that this attention to health and safety is paying off and the ODA has just achieved a second period of one million worker hours on site preparation works without a reportable accident.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what meetings she has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179862]

Tessa Jowell: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [179374]

David Cairns: None.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers were employed by the Church Commissioners in each of the last 10 years. [182525]

Sir Stuart Bell: In 1997 and 1998 the Commissioners employed four officers who were engaged in press and communications work. Since 1999, however, the Commissioners have not directly employed any press or communications officers. The Archbishops' Council provides communications services to the Commissioners at an annually agreed level.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many overseas visits were made by staff of the National Audit Office in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and what the cost of the visits was in each year. [181460]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office does not collate this specific information and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. The National Audit Office has published on its website (www.nao.org.uk) details of recent expenditure incurred on national and international travel and subsistence by the Comptroller and Auditor General and his senior management. This information will be updated every six months.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the Electoral Commission will complete its compilation and review of information from police forces on alleged fraud in connection with elections. [182138]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has put in place arrangements to gather and review information held by police forces in England and Wales on a continuing basis.

The Commission has completed a review of information held by the Crown Prosecution Services on allegations of electoral malpractice at elections in England and Wales between 2000 and 2006. An analysis of this information is available on its website and a copy has now been placed in the Library of the House.

Electoral Register: Credit

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has issued to electoral registration officers when referring to credit referencing as an encouragement to the public to apply for inclusion on the electoral register. [182135]

Peter Viggers: Section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires Electoral Registration Officers to use a prescribed form when conducting the annual registration canvass. This form does not contain any information on the use of the electoral register for credit purposes. The Electoral Commission informs me that it advised Electoral Registration Officers in 2003 of its view that electoral information only should be provided with annual canvass forms.

Electoral Register: Entry Clearances

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance is issued by the Electoral Commission to electoral registration officers to highlight the requirement for Commonwealth citizens to have valid leave to remain in order to legally register. [182136]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has issued guidance advising Electoral Registration Officers that a 'qualifying Commonwealth citizen' is either one who does not require leave to remain in the United Kingdom or is a person who both requires and holds leave to remain.

The Commission further advises Electoral Registration Officers that if there are any doubts about an applicant's eligibility in relation to immigration status, the Electoral Registration Officer has the power to require a statutory declaration of eligibility, under Regulation 24(2)(d)(ii) of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001.

Electoral Register: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance is issued by the Electoral Commission to electoral registration officers on their duty to maintain accurate electoral registers in relation to illegal immigrants. [182137]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has provided guidance to Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain that if there are any doubts about an applicant's eligibility in relation to immigration status, the Electoral Registration Officer has the power to require a statutory declaration of eligibility, under Regulation 24(2)(d)(ii) of the Representation of the People Regulations 2001.

Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers the Electoral Commission employed in each of the last 10 years. [182507]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the numbers of press and communication officer posts in each year since it was established are as follows:

	Press officers	*Communication officers*	*Total*
2000-01	0	1	1
2001-02	3	2	5
2002-03	3	5	8
2003-04	5	14	19
2004-05	4	22	26
2005-06	4	23	27
2006-07	5	20	25
2007-08	5	20	25

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each year since it was established; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182727]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the following special bonuses have been awarded to press and communication officers since the Commission was established in 2000:

	Number	*Total (£)*	*Highest (£)*	*Lowest (£)*
2000-01	0	0	—	—
2001-02	1	250	250	—
2002-03	0	0	—	—
2003-04	1	300	300	—
2004-05	4	1,750	750	250
2005-06	0	0	—	—
2006-07	0	0	—	—
2007-08	0	0	—	—

In addition to the special bonus scheme, in April 2007 a reward voucher scheme for all staff was launched to recognise good team and/or individual performance. The vouchers can be redeemed in a variety of shops and outlets across the UK. Since the introduction of this scheme 15 press and communication officers have been awarded vouchers, averaging £25 each.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa Progress Panel

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* role and *(b)* remit of the Africa Progress Panel is; what support the Government are providing to the Africa Progress Panel in 2007-08; and what activities have been undertaken by the Africa Progress Panel since it was established. [181744]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Africa Progress Panel's objective is to use its collective influence and knowledge to work with Africa and its development partners to ensure the implementation of promises to support the continent. This includes commitments made at the Gleneagles G8 summit in 2005.

The panel was launched in Berlin on 24 April 2007, where it issued a communiqué setting out its objectives and priorities in detail:

http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/english/ourwork.php

The panel's Africa launch took place in Accra, Ghana, on 11 June 2007. The UK Government have committed £1 million to support the panel during its existence which is expected to be until 2010-11.

Panel members held discussions with a number of international leaders in 2007 to advance its work, including the German Chancellor (as President of the G8), the President of Ghana (as Chair of the African Union), the President(s) of the European Union, the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other world leaders.

The panel has also issued several statements, including a response to the outcomes of the 2007 G8 summit, and an assessment of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals—accessible from the panel's website:

www.africaprogresspanel.org

Africa: Security

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Africa Partnership Forum is planning to present a progress report on peace and security in Africa. [181745]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Africa Partnership Forum (APF) discussed a paper on peace and security at its 8th meeting, in Berlin, on 22 to 23 May 2007. The paper and the chair's summary of the discussion are available online at the following address:

http://www.africapartnershipforum.org/document/60/
0,,343.en_37489563_37637521_39576060_1_1_1_1.00.html

Chad: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [180820]

Mr. Thomas: Eastern Chad hosts 240,000 Sudanese refugees in 12 refugee camps and 46,000 Central African refugees in four refugee camps. There are 180,000 IDPs, and an estimated 700,000 in host communities have been adversely affected by the ongoing conflict. DFID relies on data from partner agencies for assessment of the humanitarian situation affecting the displaced populations, and the humanitarian situation in Chad is monitored closely by a dedicated west African humanitarian advisor. In financial year 2007-08, DFID has committed £6.5 million to Chad through humanitarian agencies. These include ICRC (3600,000), UNHCR (£2 million) UNOCHA (£260,000), Oxfam (£330,000), WFP (£1.8 million) and Islamic Relief (£500,000).

Though conditions for refugees remain of concern, the immediate humanitarian needs of most of the refugee population are being addressed. In the majority of refugee camps, for example, refugees are receiving 15 litres of potable water per person per day, in accordance with international standards. According to the UN, refugees all have access to primary health care facilities, although vaccination coverage is less than the accepted level. The UN estimates that 82 per cent. of refugee school-age children are enrolled and attend school. In line with international nutritional norms, refugees are all receiving 2,100 kCal per person per day. Nutritional surveillance shows that in the refugee population, global acute malnutrition is 7.7 per cent. which is within the WHO-defined 'alert' band, and severe acute malnutrition is 0.75 per cent.—which is defined as 'acceptable'.

The situation for the internally displaced population is more worrying; in many cases, standards fall below the internationally accepted norms. Of the total of 180,000 IDPs, only 125,000 are receiving more than 10 litres of potable water per person per day. The UN estimates that 70 per cent. of IDPs have access to primary health care facilities at utilisation rate of one visit per person per year, which is below what is to be expected for a displaced population. 2,100 kCal per day have been provided to a caseload of 150,000 IDPs. Global acute malnutrition levels are at 21.4 per cent. and severe acute malnutrition levels are at 2.6 per cent; both levels are classified by WHO as 'serious'. The UN notes that information relating to the full extent of coverage of humanitarian need is as yet incomplete. The situation for the host population, and those otherwise affected by the conflict, is very serious, with global and severe malnutrition figures comparable to those prevalent amongst the IDPs. The UN estimates that some 700,000 additional people fall into this category.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179376]

Mr. Malik: DFID has one 0845 number which enables members of the public to call the public enquiry point in East Kilbride from anywhere in the United Kingdom, charged at standard local rates. No related departmental bodies use 0845 numbers for public access to services.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on the provision of health workers to work with people with AIDS in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [180917]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The UK has been actively engaged with the US Government [illegible] address health worker shortages in Africa. Through the International Health Partnership, DFID recently held a joint meeting in Ethiopia with the US Presidents Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and four PEPFAR and IMP African countries to agree priority actions to increase and improve resources for health workers, including those needed to deliver HIV and AIDS services.

DFID has committed £1 million to the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) to take forward global advocacy and lesson learning, including on issues such as supply, retention and migration of health workers. We are working with GHWA as it develops its plan to support the scale-up of health workers, including health education and training.

The UK will continue to push for action to address health worker shortages in developing countries at the forthcoming meeting of the G8 health experts group. We will work with G8 partners, and especially closely with Japan during its 2008 G8 presidency, to maintain the profile and momentum to help solve the health worker crisis facing the poorest countries. We hope the GHWA will be a useful contribution to this.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on introducing conditionality changes related to anti-trafficking measures into the UK's bilateral development and assistance programmes. [181680]

Mr. Malik: Where the Department for International Development (DFID) gives money to partner governments, it comes with conditions. We assess whether partner governments show commitment to tackling poverty, upholding human rights and managing public money wisely. We may, and do, interrupt or stop aid if a partner government breaches these commitments. All our conditions relate to these three partnership commitments. DFID has no plans to introduce conditionality changes specifically related to anti-trafficking measures.

Poverty and social exclusion make people vulnerable to human trafficking. DFID is supporting long-term programmes to help eliminate the underlying causes of poverty. Our programmes help improve the livelihood opportunities and security of poor people so that they are less susceptible to traffickers. DFID also supports the anti-trafficking work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) through its Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Over £14 million is currently committed to ILO and civil society anti-trafficking programmes in south-east Asia.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business Questions

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House what meetings the Deputy Leader of the House has had with ministerial colleagues on the business of the House in each of the last six months. [181934]

Helen Goodman: Since July 2007, I have had regular meetings with ministerial colleagues to discuss the business of the House.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Leader of the House how many overseas visits by officials in her Office took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181599]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Details of overseas ministerial visits, including costs for Ministers and officials are published annually by the Cabinet Office and can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers

Topical Debates

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many suggestions for topical debates her Department has received from hon. and right hon. Members by *(a)* post, *(b)* the link on her website and *(c)* other means; how many she has received from hon. Members of each party; and who suggested each of the subjects she has selected for debate; [181869]

(2) what proportion of subjects for topical debates suggested by hon. and right hon. Members she has selected for topical debates; [181870]

(3) what the 10 most popular suggestions made by hon. and right hon. Members for topical debates have been. [181871]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows.

	Total received	*Labour*	*Conservative*	*Liberal Democrat*
Post	11	6	1	4
Via website	9	8	1	0
Other	3	1	1	1

Note:

This does not include requests made to me at business questions as this is already a matter of public record.

Topical debates take place in Government time and the decision and announcement are for me.

Of the requests made, other than at business questions, two subjects have been requested more than once. The topics are: a medal for members of the armed forces who have been killed or wounded in combat and Farepak.

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House what criteria she uses to decide whether a subject proposed for a topical debate is topical. [181872]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House to the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1225W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Domestic Sports: Player Nationality

11. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the EU rules affecting the nationalities of team members in domestic sports teams. [182033]

Andy Burnham: We have been in regular dialogue with both the European Commission and colleagues in member states on the issue of home grown players and on the relationship between the Commission and sport more widely.

The Commission published its White Paper on Sport in July last year and are assessing in more detail the relationship between sport and freedom of movement rules.

We look forward to the outcomes of this work which we understand will be completed in April.

Heritage Bill

12. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the draft Heritage Bill to be published. [182034]

Margaret Hodge: We are aiming to publish the draft Heritage Protection Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in spring 2008.

Additional Sporting Activity

13. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to encourage school students with an interest in sport to undertake additional sporting activity outside school. [182035]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2006-07 school sport survey showed that 86 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds did two hours of high quality PE and school sport per week in and out of school, exceeding the target of 85 per cent. a year early.

We now have a more ambitious target to offer five hours of sport for all young people aged five to 16 and three hours for those aged 16 to 19 per week. This will be delivered in and out of school through a range of school, community and club providers.

BBC

15. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC on arrangements for the scrutiny of BBC expenditure by the Committee of Public Accounts. [182037]

Andy Burnham: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions have had recent discussions. The matter was fully addressed during Charter review and I am satisfied that the current arrangements strike the right balance between protecting public resources and maintaining the independence of the BBC. We have no plans to propose any changes.

Sport: Young People

16. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to promote opportunities for young people to participate in competitive sport. [182038]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2006-07 School Sport Survey showed that:

> 98 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day;
>
> 58 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and
>
> 35 per cent. of all pupils were involved in inter-school competition.

We are committed to increasing the number of children and young people involved in competitive sport as part of our plans to offer five hours of sport for all five to 16-year-olds and three hours for young people aged 16 to 19.

We are working with governing bodies and school sport associations to improve their competition frameworks and we are also establishing a national network of competition managers to implement our plans at a local level.

Departmental Spending

18. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department will be spending on *(a)* museums and galleries and *(b)* theatre in the next 12 months. [182040]

Margaret Hodge: In 2008-09 DCMS will provide nearly £371.5 million to the DCMS-sponsored museums and galleries and £46.2 million toward the Renaissance in the Regions programme for regional museums. Arts Council England propose to spend £102.5 million on theatre and £25.4 million on galleries.

Funding: Arts Council England

19. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria were used in determining the withdrawal of Arts Council England funding from certain arts organisations. [182041]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council operates at arm's length from Government, according to the criteria set out in their Royal Charter:

> "to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts (and) to increase accessibility of the arts to the public in England."

In February 2007 the Arts Council said it would give particular priority to:

> achieving a portfolio of effective and thriving organisations;
>
> increasing engagement in the arts across the population;
>
> delivering greater arts activity and presence in emerging priority places; and
>
> delivering the recommendations of Turning Point, the Arts Council's strategic review of the visual arts sector.

Diversity: Cultural Events

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage more diversity among participants in and audiences for cultural events; and if he will make a statement. [182025]

Andy Burnham: The Government are supporting a number of initiatives to increase diversity among participants and audiences for cultural events, across the arts, museums and heritage sectors.

We are working closely with Arts Council England, sponsored museums, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and English Heritage to deliver this.

Professional Football: Salaries

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to increase levels of transparency of salaries paid by professional football clubs. [182032]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently no plans to bring forward legislation in this area. Salaries are a matter for individual clubs and the Football authorities.

I have been clear, however, that football must find the right balance between its commercial and sporting sides if it is to secure its long-term success and stability.

National Museums: Children

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of visits by children to national museums in 2006-07. [182036]

Margaret Hodge: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State gave earlier to the hon. Member for Luton, North (Kelvin Hopkins).

Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through regional development agencies' single pot. [179228]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: My Department provides the following funding for tourism:

				£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
VisitBritain	50	48	45	41
Regional development agencies single budget	4	4	3	3
Greater London Authority	2	2	[1]tba	[1]tba

[1] Tourism funding agreement between the department for culture, media and sport and the Greater London Authority will be subject to the tourism strategic review.

Note:

Figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are from CSR2007 settlement, with some rounding adjustments.

The regional development agencies single budget is intended to deliver a range of statutory objectives including regeneration, business support, employment, skills and sustainable development. Detailed proposals for business support covering the next three years will be set out in the regional development agencies' corporate plans which will be published in the spring.

In addition, my Department will also provide up to £3 million per year for the next three years to support projects that might emerge through the process of Government engagement with the creative industries.

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has issued on the treatment of requests for the *(a)* return and *(b)* permanent loan of historical artefacts held by a museum in one part of the UK which were (i) discovered and (ii) created in another part of the United Kingdom. [182176]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has not issued guidance on this topic. Requests for the restitution of cultural objects are a matter for individual museums to consider.

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external action in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173708]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182715]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the 2007 annual pay award for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, bonuses totalling £11,730 were paid to press and communications officers. The highest payment was £2,500 and the lowest payment was £680.

To provide the historical information requested for the past 10 years would incur disproportionate cost because in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport information is held by grade and not job role.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and (g) ethnic composition is. [171413]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes for staff below the senior civil service: (i) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (ii) performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. Senior civil service salaries, including bonuses are subject to review by the Senior Salaries Review Body.

(b) The normal retirement age for all permanent DCMS staff in all grades including the senior civil service is 65. Staff can choose between a range of pension options operating under the Principle Civil Service Pension Scheme.

(c) Expenditure on expenses in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of managing public money as well as the Department's internal guidance. An analysis of expenses is not separately recorded in the Department's accounting system and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(e) The following table provides the further information requested;

Grade	*Salary band*	*Percentage of staff in grade*	*Average age*	*Number of women*	*Number of men*	*White*	*Not stated*	*Ethnic minority declared*
SCS	£56,100 to 205,000	7	47	11	27	30	7	1

Grade	Salary band	Percentage of staff in grade	Average age	Number of women	Number of men	White	Not stated	Ethnic minority declared
A	£42,770 to 64,065	20	42	47	61	95	6	7
HEOD	£27,560 to 35,335	3	27	9	7	11	3	2
B	£27,560 to 35,335	34	40	77	98	141	15	19
C	£21,242 to 25,178	23	37	65	57	93	10	19
D	£16,796 to 20,395	13	39	40	28	38	10	20

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many 0845 or similar telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179013]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not use any 0845 telephone numbers for public access to services.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the total value of Heritage Lottery Fund awards was given in grants of *(a)* less than £1 million and *(b)* more than £5 million in each year since 1997. [181947]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is given in the following table:

Decision (Financial year)	Percentage of total awards under £1 million	Percentage of total awards over £5 million
1997-98	42	28
1998-99	37	23
1999-2000	35	20
2000-01	32	31
2001-02	38	26
2002-03	37	30
2003-04	37	20
2004-05	35	40
2005-06	42	20
2006-07	41	12

Heritage Lottery Fund: Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the appointment of the new chair and four trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund. [181948]

Margaret Hodge: An open and independently scrutinised process is being carried out, in accordance with the requirements of the Commissioner for Public Appointment's code of practice, and these appointments will be made by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and myself.

Interviews have been held for all five posts, and recommendations will be sent to No. 10 shortly. No 10 will announce the appointments as soon as is possible.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the use of temporary event notices by licensed premises; and if he will make a statement; [182131]

(2) if he will make it his policy to bring forward amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 so that licensed premises may not operate outside their licence when operating under a temporary events notice; and if he will make a statement. [182134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2005 DCMS formally consulted on Permitted Temporary Activities and the temporary event notices (TENs) regulations. Ministers considered views from all respondents and decided not to further restrict the limits on TENs.

While there had been some representations about licensed premises using TENs to operate additional hours or activities which have not been included on the full licence, the Government believed that the existing limit was sufficient. Licensed premises were able to hold events outside their set hours under the old licensing regime by the use of special orders of exemption.

However, we will continue to monitor the position with stakeholders and if there is compelling evidence to suggest that the TENs regulations are not covering problems which cannot be dealt with by using the other powers available to the police for handling disorder or noise nuisance, including the closure of premises in certain cases where a TEN has effect. The premises holding the TEN may also have their licence reviewed if they are found to be failing to promote the four licensing objectives.

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visitors there were to the UK in each of the last six years. [181985]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The table shows the number of overseas visits to the UK for the latest six years for which data are available.

Overseas visits

	Million
2001	22.8
2002	24.2
2003	24.7
2004	27.8
2005	30.0
2006	32.7

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of foreign visitors to the North East of England in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [182916]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the number of overseas visits to the north-east of England in each year since 2004.

Overseas visits

North-east	*Thousand*
2004	539
2005	590
2006	650

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1167, on planning permission: playing fields, if he will break down the planning applications considered by Sport England by parliamentary constituency. [182698]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not hold information on planning applications affecting playing fields, broken down by parliamentary constituency. Sport England does however collect information by region.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1167, on planning permission: playing fields, whether his Department still collects information on the number of planning applications approved each year affecting sites which either were too small or of the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch as currently defined as referred to in the answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 421, on playing fields. [182805]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing field land where there is at least one pitch marked out of 0.4 hectares or greater. As part of that process Sport England collects information on the number of applications that affected land too small or the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch.

Sport: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from which budget headings of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Sport the £2.8 million UK contribution to the International Inspiration programme will come; and if he will make a statement. [182683]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total funding that has been secured for the pilot phase of the International Inspiration programme is £9.25 million, which was rounded to £9 million for the announcement.

The sources of that funding are:

Source	*(£ million)*
Premier League	4.20
DFID via UK Sport (funds transferred to UK Sport Grant in Aid via the winter supplementary estimates—£1million in 2007-08 and £1million in 2008-09)	2.00
DCMS of which 0.15 from departmental other sport support budget and 0.20 transferred to UK Sport Grant in Aid via the winter supplementary estimates	0.35
UNICEF	1.45
British Council	1.25
Total	9.25

In addition the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has agreed, as part of the programme, to dedicate up to 12 Chevening scholarships per year until 2012 for post-graduate studies in sports administration. Over the period of the pilot phase of International Inspiration this has a value of £0.425 million.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on tourism by the South West Regional Development Agency in each of the last five years. [181982]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* SWRDA's estimated expenditure on tourism is set out in the following table. The expenditure includes regional brand campaigns; tourism skills development; and support for South West Tourism to deliver the regional tourism strategy, 'Towards 2015':

	£000
2003-04	857
2004-05	1,487
2005-06	3,061
2006-07	3,278
2007-08	2,634

These figures do not include other expenditure which benefits tourism, such as SWRDA's substantial capital investment in regeneration schemes and attractions.

Tourism: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting the north-east in the last five years for which figures are available. [181547]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the average expenditure per visit by overseas residents visiting the north-east in the last five years for which data are available.

North-east

	Average expenditure[1] per visit by overseas residents (£)
2002	320
2003	421
2004	359
2005	348
2006	390

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.
Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of each category of crime was cleared up by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [180630]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the percentage rate of each category of crime which was cleared by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. The Northern Ireland Policing Board is committed to working with the PSNI to improve clearance rates—the 2007-08 Policing Plan contains a target of increasing the sanction clearance rate by three percentage points.

	Percentage cleared[1]				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Offences against the person	51.4	57.0	53.1	56.6	34.4
Sexual offences	46.6	50.8	46.0	43.3	25.6
Burglary	13.4	14.4	16.7	15.5	18.6
Robbery	9.9	12.2	14.8	12.6	12.5
Theft	14.0	15.9	17.4	20.0	19.6
Fraud and forgery	28.4	32.4	36.0	34.3	31.4
Criminal damage	13.0	15.2	14.4	15.2	11.6
Offences against the state	33.4	41.6	45.9	50.3	54.6
Other notifiable offences	67.4	71.0	72.8	74.6	82.7

[1] *Clearances* In April 2006 PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed). This change was introduced in order to bring these clearance types more closely into line with police services in England and Wales where they have been applying the Crown Prosecution Service evidential test since 2002. In Northern Ireland the equivalent standard became relevant to PSNI clearances only with the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in June 2005. While this has had the effect of reducing the overall clearance rate, sanction clearances (those where a formal sanction is taken against an offender by means of charge, summons, and caution or where the offence is taken into consideration at court) remain unaffected.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180574]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 306-07W.

There are a large number of information technology projects across the Northern Ireland Office. The majority of these are relatively small and are developed in-house with minimum cost. To compile information to support all projects would be at disproportionate cost therefore the information within the following table relates only to current IT projects which cost in excess of £1 million.

	Causeway	*PRISM*	*Access NI*
Start date	August 2003	March 2002	June 2006
Original planned completion date	December 2006	December 2005	March 2007
Expected completion date	December 2009	March 2008[1]	March 2008
Originally planned costs (£ million)	45	5.12	1.84
Estimated planned costs (£ million)	61	5.97	1.3

[1] Implementation commenced in the first prison establishment on September 2005. Implementation is planned to be completed in all prison establishments by March 2008.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [179373]

Mr. Woodward: There are no 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers used by the Northern Ireland Office.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Expenditure

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the Police Service of Northern Ireland budget in each district command unit was allocated to the prevention and investigation of crime in each of the last five years. [180863]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the percentage, where available, of the PSNI budget in each district command unit which was allocated to prevention and investigation of crime. The information requested is available for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

District	*DCU*	*Domain 2*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Urban					
A District	North Belfast	Investigating Crime	53.0	35.2	40.8
		Reducing Crime	3.7	2.9	2.2
		Promoting Public Safety	16.9	31.5	27.0
		Providing Assistance	26.3	30.3	29.9
	West Belfast	Investigating Crime	51.4	40.4	43.2
		Reducing Crime	0.9	1.9	2.2
		Promoting Public Safety	17.4	30.4	26.2
		Providing Assistance	30.3	27.3	28.4
B District	East Belfast	Investigating Crime	50.1	37.9	45.3
		Reducing Crime	3.6	2.8	2.3
		Promoting Public Safety	20.5	34.1	28.6
		Providing Assistance	25.8	25.2	23.8
	South Belfast	Investigating Crime	52.6	44.0	51.6
		Reducing Crime	2.2	2.0	1.6
		Promoting Public Safety	21.4	29.0	21.6
		Providing Assistance	23.8	25.0	25.2
C District	Ards	Investigating Crime	47.6	38.8	42.5
		Reducing Crime	5.3	3.3	2.4
		Promoting Public Safety	21.8	30.6	27.4
		Providing Assistance	25.3	27.3	27.7
	Castlereagh	Investigating Crime	45.4	35.8	37.3
		Reducing Crime	2.5	2.1	2.0
		Promoting Public Safety	23.3	35.0	31.7
		Providing Assistance	28.8	27.1	29.0
	Down	Investigating Crime	49.9	35.5	41.5
		Reducing Crime	2.3	2.3	2.3
		Promoting Public Safety	21.9	32.2	25.3
		Providing Assistance	26.0	29.9	30.9
	North Down	Investigating Crime	49.8	42.3	45.5
		Reducing Crime	2.0	2.0	2.3
		Promoting Public Safety	19.2	29.6	24.9
		Providing Assistance	28.9	26.1	27.4
D District	Antrim	Investigating Crime	51.9	39.1	49.4
		Reducing Crime	3.1	2.3	1.8
		Promoting Public Safety	20.9	28.2	24.0
		Providing Assistance	24.1	30.5	24.8
	Carrickfergus	Investigating Crime	47.1	36.7	42.3
		Reducing Crime	4.0	2.6	2.9

District	*DCU*	*Domain 2*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
		Promoting Public Safety	26.1	35.4	29.6
		Providing Assistance	23.8	25.4	26.1
	Lisburn	Investigating Crime	54.1	46.0	49.4
		Reducing Crime	2.0	2.2	1.4
		Promoting Public Safety	17.7	25.2	22.2
		Providing Assistance	26.2	26.6	26.9
	Newtownabbey	Investigating Crime	44.9	40.4	43.2
		Reducing Crime	2.7	2.3	2.0
		Promoting Public Safety	23.1	29.9	25.3
		Providing Assistance	29.3	27.4	29.5
Rural region					
E District	Armagh	Investigating Crime	46.7	34.6	41.5
		Reducing Crime	2.0	2.1	1.8
		Promoting Public Safety	24.2	33.4	26.5
		Providing Assistance	27.1	30.0	30.2
	Banbridge	Investigating Crime	44.0	32.2	38.7
		Reducing Crime	4.1	3.4	3.2
		Promoting Public Safety	26.3	30.7	27.4
		Providing Assistance	25.6	33.7	30.7
	Craigavon	Investigating Crime	46.9	37.9	45.8
		Reducing Crime	1.4	1.9	1.3
		Promoting Public Safety	25.5	32.1	24.2
		Providing Assistance	26.1	28.1	28.7
	Newry and Mourne	Investigating Crime	46.0	33.1	39.5
		Reducing Crime	2.8	2.8	2.5
		Promoting Public Safety	22.2	34.0	26.6
		Providing Assistance	29.0	30.1	31.3
F District	Cookstown	Investigating Crime	51.4	37.6	42.1
		Reducing Crime	2.4	2.3	2.0
		Promoting Public Safety	20.3	29.3	24.3
		Providing Assistance	25.8	30.8	31.6
	Dungannon and South Tyrone	Investigating Crime	44.5	34.6	39.7
		Reducing Crime	2.6	3.1	3.5
		Promoting Public Safety	25.4	32.8	27.6
		Providing Assistance	27.6	29.5	29.2
	Fermanagh	Investigating Crime	49.9	37.6	42.3
		Reducing Crime	2.3	2.2	2.1
		Promoting Public Safety	18.2	32.5	28.7
		Providing Assistance	29.6	27.7	26.9
	Omagh	Investigating Crime	44.5	39.6	44.8
		Reducing Crime	3.8	2.5	2.2
		Promoting Public Safety	23.0	28.6	23.1
		Providing Assistance	28.7	29.3	29.8
Rural					
G District	Foyle	Investigating Crime	43.7	33.7	43.8
		Reducing Crime	2.3	2.3	1.9
		Promoting Public Safety	26.7	34.4	26.7
		Providing Assistance	27.3	29.6	27.6
	Limavady	Investigating Crime	53.9	41.7	43.7
		Reducing Crime	2.9	2.6	2.4

District	*DCU*	*Domain 2*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
		Promoting Public Safety	16.8	24.6	21.0
		Providing Assistance	26.4	31.1	32.9
	Magherafelt	Investigating Crime	44.6	32.9	36.3
		Reducing Crime	2.8	3.6	3.5
		Promoting Public Safety	19.7	32.1	28.7
		Providing Assistance	32.9	31.3	31.5
	Strabane	Investigating Crime	48.3	43.5	50.4
		Reducing Crime	1.4	1.9	1.7
		Promoting Public Safety	21.9	27.4	20.1
		Providing Assistance	28.3	27.3	27.8
H District	Ballymena	Investigating Crime	49.3	37.7	40.6
		Reducing Crime	3.7	3.0	3.0
		Promoting Public Safety	21.2	28.8	25.7
		Providing Assistance	25.8	30.4	30.8
	Ballymoney	Investigating Crime	44.8	34.9	38.3
		Reducing Crime	4.8	3.6	3.2
		Promoting Public Safety	21.1	28.6	27.0
		Providing Assistance	29.4	32.9	31.4
	Coleraine	Investigating Crime	53.0	36.0	42.8
		Reducing Crime	1.7	2.6	2.0
		Promoting Public Safety	19.3	29.2	23.6
		Providing Assistance	25.9	32.2	31.6
	Larne	Investigating Crime	41.9	34.5	39.1
		Reducing Crime	4.0	3.5	2.5
		Promoting Public Safety	26.7	33.7	28.3
		Providing Assistance	27.4	28.4	30.2
	Moyle	Investigating Crime	42.8	34.2	36.3
		Reducing Crime	2.2	2.1	2.2
		Promoting Public Safety	31.9	34.4	30.7
		Providing Assistance	23.2	29.3	30.9

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Graduates

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* assistant chief constables, *(b)* chief superintendents and *(c)* superintendents in the Police Service of Northern Ireland are university graduates. [180633]

Paul Goggins: Within the Police Service of Northern Ireland the following numbers of officers in each rank who are showing qualifications which would be attributable to university graduates (Open University Diploma, Degree, Post Graduate, Degree and Post Graduate, Higher National Certificate and Post Graduate and Higher National Certificate only) are:

	Number of posts	*Number of graduates*
(a) Assistant chief constables	7	7
(b) Chief superintendents	28	27
(c) Superintendents	63	54

These figures also include officers who are temporarily promoted to each rank.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Standards

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to improve community confidence in the capability of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to respond effectively to crime. [180866]

Paul Goggins: Confidence in the police is high—the latest NI Crime Survey figures, for the period 1 October 2006 until 30 September 2007, show a further upturn in confidence levels in police and policing arrangements, now standing at 78 per cent.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board works with the PSNI to increase confidence, and a range of targets are set out in the current Policing Plan. A copy of the current Policing Plan 2007-10 is available on the Policing Board website:

www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

Prisons: Females

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of building a female prison as referred to in the recent Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Report on the Prisons Estate in Northern Ireland (HC 118). [182304]

Paul Goggins: As I previously announced, the Northern Ireland Prison Service is taking forward a review of the needs of female offenders, including the scope for provision of a dedicated facility.

The project team is still in the research phase, including an examination of good practice in other jurisdictions, and is scheduled to provide Ministers with a draft report by the end of February. Costings will not be available until late summer 2008.

Weapons

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the number of weapons held by each *(a)* Republican and *(b)* Loyalist paramilitary organisation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [182456]

Paul Goggins: As any estimate about the number of illegally-held weapons in Northern Ireland would be based on intelligence, it would be inappropriate to publish this information.

Decommissioning has been a key measure for securing the trust and confidence necessary to achieve political stability in Northern Ireland. There needs to be engagement with the IICD by all paramilitary organisations, and that must be backed up by action.

DEFENCE

Academies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1204W, on which dates officials of his Department had discussions with officials from the Department of Children, Schools and Families on the sponsorship of academies. [182350]

Derek Twigg: MOD officials have discussed the general issue of sponsorship of academies with officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on a number of occasions, though these were not formally minuted meetings. In particular officials spoke on 5 September 2006 and 15 March 2007 on sponsorship and there were a number of other exchanges. These discussions confirmed that the MOD would not sponsor academies, but that it was appropriate for the local chain of command to engage with sponsors where there was a significant Service community interest. For example, there has been considerable contact between military representatives in Wiltshire and the sponsor of the planned Wellington academy.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many men from the *(a)* 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, *(b)* 1st Battalion The Rifles and *(c)* 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards are providing reinforcements to the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment in Afghanistan. [182313]

Des Browne: None of the Battalions listed are providing any reinforcements to the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment in Afghanistan.

Air Force: Military Bases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the UK's military airfield capability; and if he will make a statement. [181952]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK's military airfield capability meets operational and training requirements.

As I informed the hon. Member on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1344-45W, the number and operation of military airfields is under constant review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence Estate for our armed forces.

Armed Forces Memorial

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future funding of the Armed Forces Memorial and the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. [181483]

Derek Twigg: We are considering what assistance might be given to the trustees in raising the money required to cover the outstanding costs of the project.

The National Memorial Arboretum currently receives grant in aid of £250,000, index-linked, towards the cost of maintenance of the arboretum. The current agreement for this continues until October 2009.

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many parachute jumps service personnel must make to qualify for parachute pay each year. [182333]

Derek Twigg: Payment of Specialist Pay (Parachute) is made to service personnel who have passed the Basic Parachute Course and are assigned to Specialist Pay (Parachute) posts. To remain qualified, an individual must make a minimum of one parachute descent every 24 months.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the levels of annual pay increases for members of the armed forces in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [181018]

Des Browne: The MOD submits evidence to the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, which provides independent advice and makes recommendations on armed forces pay for the coming year.

Armed Forces: Schools

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision of the continuing education allowance for service children forms part of the forces covenant; and if he will make a statement. [181067]

Derek Twigg: There is no precise definition of what elements of Service personnel allowances might contribute to a Military Covenant. The provision of Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) assists Service personnel in achieving continuity of education for their children; continuity that would otherwise be denied them in the maintained day school sector if the children accompanied the Service parent on frequent assignments at home and abroad. It is one of a range allowances designed to provide targeted and appropriate support to Service personnel and their families.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the policy on continuing education allowance for service children was last reviewed; and when the policy will next be reviewed. [181068]

Derek Twigg: Continuity of education allowance (CEA) was examined in detail in 2004, in preparation for the migration from three single Service legacy delivery systems to the tri-Service Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).

CEA is also part of the strategic remuneration review (SRR), which is an over-arching review of remuneration provided to Service personnel. The SRR is due to submit its recommendations to the Defence Management Board during spring 2008.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact on educational achievement of the children of military personnel of relocation in terms of *(a)* academic results and *(b)* personal and social development of the children; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the relocation of military personnel on education results of schools attended by their children. [181516]

Derek Twigg: The only rigorous evidence currently available that demonstrates academic achievement of service children is the Key Stage results in service schools overseas, run by the Service Children's Education (SCE) Agency. These results would regularly place them well within the equivalent of the top 25 per cent of local education authorities in England. In order to understand academic achievement more widely, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has introduced a service indicator on the annual school census and is working with MOD on a joint mitigating mobility project to identify the best way of improving outcomes further.

The MOD has no specific evidence of the impact of relocation on personal and social development of children, but the mitigating mobility project will also consider this aspect. Should problems arise, there is a wide range of support available to service personnel and their families. This includes unit staff, welfare agencies and specialist organisations that offer support directly to families, depending on the specific need.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his officials first discussed with Essex local authority schooling for the children of Colchester Garrison; on what subsequent dates discussions have been held; which *(a)* officials from his Department and *(b)* officials from Essex local authority attended; which (i) Ministers and (ii) Essex County Councillors were present at these meetings; what the location was of each meeting; and what the subject heading was of each item discussed. [182349]

Derek Twigg: I have agreed to meet with the hon. Member to discuss this issue and will write to him after the meeting.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the Panther command and liaison vehicles are located; and *(a)* when and *(b)* where they will be deployed. [180035]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Around a third of the planned fleet of 401 Panther vehicles have been delivered to the Army. Panther vehicles are located at Ashchurch, Bordon and Bovington, where inspections and introductory and specialist training are being carried out. While training is ongoing, no decisions have been taken on when or where they will be deployed.

Belize: Armed Forces

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops will remain in Belize at the end of 2008. [182654]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of British troops stationed at the British Army Training Unit Belize (BATSUB) at the end of 2008 is expected to be 40.

BATSUB's role is to co-ordinate British Army training activity in Belize. The actual number of troops in Belize at any one time will vary depending on the training programme.

Defence Review

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances he would consider undertaking a Defence Review. [180619]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The 1998 Strategic Defence Review (Cm 3999) and 2002 New Chapter (Cm 5566) White Papers identified the major challenges to UK security as the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the spread of international terrorism and the threat posed by weak and failing states. In response to these challenges, they set the requirement for the UK to maintain expeditionary, balanced and flexible armed forces. These assumptions were validated in the 2003 White Paper "Delivering security in a Changing World"

(Cm 6041-I) and were endorsed again in work leading to the 2007 comprehensive spending review (Cm 7227). The recent CSR settlement of 1.5 per cent. real terms growth means an additional £7.7 billion for Defence by 2011, continuing the longest period of sustained real growth in planned defence spending since the 1980s. Our priority is to continue to modernise the armed forces to deliver the capabilities needed to meet these challenges.

Defence Equipment: Motor Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military vehicles were cannibalised in each of the last 12 months, broken down by vehicle type. [182324]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1030W, and 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 476W.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179948]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which assets of his Department in Hampshire have been sold since 1997; and what the *(a)* sale completion date and *(b)* price realised was for each. [181663]

Derek Twigg: Records of transactions prior to 2000 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From 2000, details are given in the following table:

Site or address	*Date sold*	*Price (£)*
TAC Redan Road, Aldershot	April 2000	1,021,000
Land at Ross House, HMS Daedalus, Lee on Solent	September 2000	30,000
Sub station at Eastney	January 2001	42,150
Martin Lines, Church Crookham	January 2001	4,650,000
OSU Liphook	February 2001	2,500,000
TA HQ Carlton Place, Southampton	February 2001	455,690
Pumphouse Triangle (wood/pond), Bordon	March 2001	46,500
Pumphouse Triangle (land), Bordon	March 2001	21,200
Land at Venture Industrial Park, Gosport	March 2001	3,000
Frater Industrial Land, Gosport	March 2001	320,400
St. George's Barracks (N), Gosport	March 2001	900,000
Searle's House, Winchester	March 2001	750,000
Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport	March 2001	1,347,000
Pewit Island, Portsmouth	April 2001	5,000
Frater MT, Gosport	December 2001	1,512,000
12 Canute Drive, Christchurch	July 2002	120,000
Farnborough Airfield (long lease premium)	February 2003	1,809,375
Land at St. Christophers Road, Cove	March 2003	180,020
HMS Mercury, Leydene	March 2003	1,725,000
Vine Cottage Bungalow plot, Aldershot	May 2003	181,500
Fort Southwick	July 2003	764,759
RE Lines and St. Lucia Lodge, Bordon	October 2003	4,345,000
Land at Wellington Avenue, Aldershot	November 2003	1,000
Land at Hospital Hill, Aldershot	February 2004	1,675,649
Land at The Ferns, Aldershot	2003	1,044
Land at Norris Bridge, Aldershot	July 2004	75,000
Land at Wellington Avenue, Aldershot	November 2004	205,077
Land at Amport House, Amport	December 2004	45,764
General Aviation Area, Farnborough	January 2005	500,000
Ski-Slope, Galwey Road, Aldershot	March 2005	150,000
Land at DLO North site, Andover	March 2005	1,650,000
Pumphouse site, Church Crookham	May 2005	198,000
Land at King George V cottages, Minley	June 2005	50,000
West Minley Farm, Minley	October 2005	560,000
Footbridge at Nimrod Drive, Rowner	November 2005	5,991
Former RAF Officers' Mess, Farnborough	November 2005	1,200,000
Fleet Photographic Unit, Tipner Lane, Portsmouth	December 2005	1,700,000
Land at Oil Fuel Deport, Gosport	December 2005	20,156
Garages at Lancaster Way, Cove	January 2006	31,000
HMS Daedalus, Lee on Solent	March 2006	12,750,000
Land at Calshot	March 2006	65,000
Defence Munitions Centre, Dean Hill	April 2006	901,029
Queensgate, Farnborough	August 2006	21,100,000
General Aviation Area, Farnborough	December 2006	400,000
Land at 1 Roman Way, Barton Stacey	February 2007	15,000
Land at North Lane, Aldershot	March 2007	1,510,000
Clayhall Cemetery bungalow, Gosport	March 2007	117,000
Northern Parade, Falklands Road, Hilsea	March 2007	4,324,000
Land at Dean Hill	May 2007	198,000
Land at Dean Hill	May 2007	3,750
Land at Dean Hill	May 2007	36,500
Land at 90 Roberts Road, Barton Stacey	July 2007	1,000
RAF Hythe	November 2007	3,497,000
Farnborough Airfield (Freehold)	December 2007	1,000,688

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181888]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 477-478W, where I stated that I had placed in the Library of the House a list of contracts signed by MOD with a net value of more than £20,000 in financial year 2006-07 on management and business consultancy, finance and accountancy consultancy, corporate governance and audit consultancy, and public/private partnership and private finance initiative consultancy that passed through a centralised approval process. These figures do not contain spend by the MOD's trading funds or agencies or on other types of consultancy.

Information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the MOD in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies are also placed in the Library of the House.

Furthermore, details of the Department's spend on external assistance, of which consultancy is a part, has been reported to Ministers since 1995-96: summaries are again available in the Library.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role he has in determining what information is classified and who is able to have access to classified information in his Department. [182345]

Des Browne: The Department follows Government policy on the classification of information and access to such information.

The value of information determines its classification. Only the originator of the information can apply a protective marking and this cannot be changed without the originator's consent.

In terms of access, the need to know principle applies—access is limited strictly to those who are security cleared to the appropriate level and who need such access to carry out their official duties.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180566]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 21 November 2007, the Ministry of Defence identified around 1,100 information technology systems in service or in development, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Minister for the Armed Forces my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathavan and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) gave on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 809-10W, to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), which addressed the MOD's five largest information technology projects at the time.

Departmental Land

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department transferred 50 acres of land at East Blockhouse, Augle, Pembrokeshire to QinetiQ on 27 March 2002; how much was received by his Department for the land; and what covenants *(a)* existed and *(b)* were placed on the land at the time of the transfer. [181865]

Derek Twigg: The land at Augle, formerly owned by the Ministry of Defence, was transferred on 1 July 2001 to QinetiQ as part of the operational estate of the former Defence Evaluation and Research Agency which was privatised on that date. Releasing individual valuations could adversely impact on potential disposal receipts should QinetiQ dispose of the site in the future. For information, the value of all property in the overall transaction as reported in the QinetiQ opening balance sheet was £342 million for land and buildings plus £98 million for surplus properties.

Regarding covenants, the sale would have transferred all those in the original conveyance of 1901 that were still applicable, together with those usually included in any property transaction. In addition there were certain specific covenants applying to all the sites included in the privatisation, including responsibility to repay a proportion of excess profits, over an agreed value and subject to a sliding scale, by way of clawback clause. There was also obligation to consider the Crichel Down rules in relation to any future disposal.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of his Department's compliance with the Crichel Down rules in the disposal of 50 acres of land at East Blockhouse, Augle, Pembrokeshire on 27 March 2002. [181866]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence transferred the former Augle site in Pembrokeshire to QinetiQ on 1 July 2001. The Crichel Down rules only apply to land acquired from 1935 onwards. As the site was acquired by the MOD in 1901, the rules did not apply. The transfer was also made under exemption 14 (6) of the 1992 version of the Crichel Down rules in use at that time.

It is understood that QinetiQ have subsequently sold the site as part of their rationalisation process.

Nick Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a defence contractor to which his Department's land has been transferred to is subject to the Crichel Down guidance when disposing of that land. [181867]

Des Browne: Where Government land is transferred to another body (for example a defence contractor) which is to take over some or all of the obligations of the Department that currently owns the land, the transfer itself does not constitute a disposal for the purposes of the Crichel Down rules. Likewise, disposals for the purposes of Private Finance Initiatives/Private Public Partnership projects do not fall within the rules and the position of any surplus land would then be subject to the PFI/PPP contract.

A defence contractor, having bought MOD land on the open market, would not be subject to the Crichel Down rules when disposing of that land.

Departmental Mobile Telephones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1031W, on departmental mobile telephones, what central controls his Department maintains on the *(a)* purchase and *(b)* reasons for purchase of mobile telephones. [179641]

Derek Twigg: Under the Defence Fixed Telecommunication Services agreement managed by Director General Information Systems and Services, the Defence Fixed Network Integrated Project Team provide a central procurement route for the procurement of mobile phones and other Global System Mobile (GSM) devices to MOD users, and records are kept of the total number of active GSM connections and billing data.

Justification of purchase and use of mobile phones within MOD is a local decision and no records are held centrally.

Departmental Personal Records

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of those individuals who had their personal details lost as a result of the theft in Edgbaston on 9 January of an MOD computer from the vehicle of a Royal Navy Officer are domiciled in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* England and *(e)* elsewhere. [182396]

Des Browne: Where a record of domicile is held, the following figures were recorded on the database at the time of the entry of the record.

	Number
Scotland	59,553
Wales	37,546
Northern Ireland	14,223
England	459,778
Elsewhere	34,667

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179198]

Derek Twigg: Records of 0845 or similar cost numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which areas of European Security and Defence Policy the Lisbon treaty will introduce qualified majority voting; and if he will make a statement. [182335]

Des Browne: The Council will continue to act by unanimity among member states on all aspects of European Security and Defence Policy except for certain procedural items in respect of permanent structured cooperation and the European Defence Agency.

The Council would act by qualified majority voting (QMV) when establishing permanent structured cooperation and when determining the list of participating member states, including when deciding on the participation of a member state that subsequently wishes to participate or suspending the participation of a member state which no longer fulfils the criteria or its commitments.

In the context of the European Defence Agency, although the treaty provides for the adoption of a decision on the Statute, seat and operational rules of the agency by QMV, these matters have already been decided upon under the joint action establishing the agency. We therefore do not anticipate any further need for decisions in this area.

The "passerelle" clause, which allows the European Council unanimously to decide to adopt a decision by QMV does not apply to decisions having military or defence implications.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the new EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will have in the European Defence Agency; and if he will make a statement. [182346]

Des Browne: We expect that the new EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy would become Head of the European Defence Agency. This role is currently held by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the application of the Solidarity Clause to the area of defence in the Lisbon Treaty. [182348]

Des Browne: The Solidarity Clause reflects EU member states' desire to offer each other support in dealing with disasters on their territory, including terrorist attacks. The use of any UK military assets under the Solidarity Clause would be on a voluntary basis and would be a sovereign decision for the UK Government to take in the light of other commitments at the time. Any support would be given only in response to a specific request by an affected member state. The arrangements required to implement the Solidarity Clause would be defined by a European Council decision. In the case that there were defence implications, the Council would decide unanimously.

European Union: Military Alliances

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of permanent structured co-operation on the military capabilities of *(a)* the EU and *(b)* NATO; and if he will make a statement. [182334]

Des Browne: Permanent structured co-operation is a mechanism that could contribute to the development of military capabilities by EU member states. This is consistent with UK policy to encourage European nations to improve their national defence capabilities for the benefit of both the EU and NATO.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers are serving in the standard Iraqi *(a)* brigade, *(b)* division and *(c)* battle group. [181713]

Des Browne: The Iraqi Army has a division, brigade and battalion as the standard operational configuration. They are established at 10,100 for the divisional level, 2,750 for the brigade level and 850 for the battalion level.

USA: Armed Forces

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US visiting forces are based at each location in the UK. [181873]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The latest available figures listed as follows have been provided by the United States Visiting Force (USVF). They are approximate figures and include US military and their supporting civilian component. In most cases it has not been possible to provide figures for each location made available to the USVF because the USVF database only records its numbers by command and not by location.

USVF command/location	*Number of USVF*
100th Air Refuelling Wing (includes HQ Third Air Force staff)	
RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk	3,400
48th Fighter Wing	
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk	[1]5,190
RAF Feltwell, Norfolk	[1]—
501st Combat Support Wing—420th Air Base Group	
RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire	[2]240
RAF Welford, Berkshire	[2]—
501st Combat Support Wing—423rd Air Base Group	
RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire	[3]425
RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire	[3]—
RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire	[3]—
501st Combat Support Wing—422nd Air Base Group	
RAF Croughton, Northants	[4]330
RAF Barford St. John, Oxfordshire	[4]—
Blenheim Crescent, London[5]	[4]—
Edison House, London[6]	[4]—
Providence Court, London[7]	[4]—
501st Combat Support Wing—421st Air Base Group and National Security Agency	
RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire	1,400
Joint Maritime Facility, RAF St. Mawgan, Cornwall	130

[5] The USVF is currently in the process of moving staff into Blenheim Crescent, London, with the final total expected to be around 120. 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W refers.

[6] There will be no USVF presence at Edison House, London, after the lease expires on that building on 31 January 2008.

[7] A total of 17 US personnel are assigned to 2 Providence Court, London as stated in my answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 122W.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out-of-service date is for each *(a)* submarine, *(b)* frigate, *(c)* destroyer and *(e)* minehunter vessel in the Royal Navy. [182321]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1632W.

TRANSPORT

A11: Accidents

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents there have been on the A11 in Suffolk since 1997. [181769]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents on the A11 in Suffolk from 1997 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

	Number of accidents
1997	38
1998	49
1999	35
2000	35
2001	53
2002	43
2003	46
2004	24
2005	37
2006	30

A21

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on A21, what the latest cost estimates are for the contracts for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury and the A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement schemes. [181979]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The interim cost estimates for these A21 schemes are:

	£ million
A21 Tonbridge to Pembury	112
A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst	103

Interim cost estimates provided by the Highways Agency have been made available to the Regional Transport Boards. The south east regional bodies have been asked to confirm their support for these schemes on the basis of these interim cost estimates.

These estimates have not been validated under the Highway Agency's new estimating procedures. Fully validated cost estimates will be provided by spring 2008.

Agricultural Machinery: Accidents

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road traffic and *(b)* on-farm accidents were reported involving an agricultural vehicle in each year from 1997. [181756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one agricultural vehicle on a public highway in Great Britain from 1999 to 2006 is shown in the following table. Accidents on private premises, including on-farm accidents, are not collected.

	Number of accidents
1999	956
2000	886
2001	837
2002	783
2003	794
2004	784
2005	756
2006	696

Agricultural vehicles were not identified separately prior to 1999.

Aviation: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* flights and *(b)* other shipments were made where (i) spent nuclear fuel, (ii) nuclear waste, (iii) other high-level and (iv) other intermediate radioactive material was transported between the UK and a foreign country in the latest year for which figures are available. [180660]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: There is a variety of categorisations of radioactive material for different purposes so it is not possible to relate shipments exactly to the categories in the question. The data cover all those shipments of radioactive material for which there is a regulatory requirement to notify one or more Government agency.

The Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 require that the Office of Civil Nuclear Security is notified of intended shipments of nuclear material. During 2007 the following notifications were received:

Into the UK

Three shipments of spent nuclear fuel.

16 shipments of uranium fuel elements.

31 shipments of uranium hexafluoride.

Two shipments of uranium dioxide.

Five shipments of Am241.

From the UK

One shipment of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel elements.

61 shipments of uranium hexafluoride.

34 shipments of uranium dioxide.

Five shipments of Am241.

The regulations covering the transport of radioactive material require notification to the Department for Transport (DfT) of certain categories of shipment, mainly those containing very large quantities of radioactivity. In addition to some of the nuclear industry shipments listed above the DfT received notification of 16 shipments of large sealed sources for industrial/medical use into the UK and 34 shipments from the UK during 2007.

There were nine shipments of UK radioactive waste for treatment overseas (of which six will involve, in due course, repatriation of radioactive waste following the treatment). These shipments were authorised by the Environment Agency under the Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste Regulations 1993.

All the above shipments were by sea.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the national free concessionary bus pass scheme for pensioners is entirely funded by central Government. [182394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government added £350 million to formula grant in 2006-07 to fund the improvement in the statutory minimum concession from half-fare to free local bus travel. It is providing £212 million in 2008-09, rising to £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11 to pay for the further enhancement of the minimum concession to free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England. It is also paying authorities around £31 million this year to cover the cost of introducing new smartcard based concessionary travel passes.

The Government are confident that there is sufficient funding, in aggregate, to cover the cost of the statutory minimum concession.

Cycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures she intends to introduce to encourage more people to cycle. [182187]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 21 January this year we announced a record £140 million investment in cycling over the next three years via our delivery body, Cycling England. This is an increase of £110 million over the current budget and fulfils a commitment to increase funding for sustainable travel as set out in our strategy document 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' in October 2007.

The announcement was accompanied by our publication 'A Sustainable Future for Cycling' which sets out the background on our investment. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

This investment will enable an extra 500,000 children to have access to the new Bikeability cycle training by 2012 and create many additional safer walking and cycling routes to at least 500 schools.

It will also allow Cycling England to work with a number of local authorities via their Cycling Demonstration Town programme where they expect to fund a further 10 towns and a large city. This will provide up to 17 demonstration areas covering around three million people highlighting best practice in the design and promotion of cycling and enables these and other local authorities to learn and be inspired by those lessons.

This will be in addition to the investment made by local authorities, which was around £60 million in 2006-07.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to increase the safety of cyclists on roads. [182188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 21 January this year, we announced we are investing a record £140 million in cycling over the next three years. This will enable an extra 500,000 children to have access to the new Bikeability cycle training by 2012 and create many additional safer walking and cycling routes to at least 500 schools.

Measures to improve road safety for all cyclists include providing better infrastructure, promoting cycle training, improved training and testing for motorists and encouraging cyclists to protect themselves, by making themselves conspicuous and by wearing a safety helmet.

The new edition of the Highway Code, published in September 2007, includes enhanced advice to all road users to look out for and be aware of vulnerable road users, including cyclists. To make drivers more aware of cyclists the theory test question bank contains a large number of questions about vulnerable road users. The screen-based theory test allows the use of digitised video clips to help test hazard perception with moving images, which include cyclists.

We concentrate our cycle safety publicity on teenagers and younger children, as these are the most vulnerable groups. We have run various cycle safety campaigns over the last 10 years. Currently, cycling safety messages for younger children are included on the Hedgehogs website including advice and games. In 2006 we produced an online advertisement for children called 'No helmet, no ride', which encourages children to wear a cycle helmet.

There is also the cyclesense website aimed at teenage cyclists, giving advice and tips on cycling safety. In 2007 we ran an MTV/THINK! competition, where teenagers were asked to come up with ideas for TV commercials about road safety, including cycling, aimed at their peers. This activity ran over five months and the three best ideas were produced as TV commercials and teens voted for their favourite ad online.

The Department's leaflet 'Drive Safe Cycle Safe' also encourages drivers and cyclists to share the road safely. The Department has grant funded a number of projects to improve road safety for cyclists including a ROSPA produced DVD on safety for cyclists and lorries.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [180076]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers used by the Department of Transport and its Agencies are as follows:

	Numbers of 0845 or similar cost numbers	*Comments*
DfT (Central)	1	0845
DVLA	17	Fifteen 0870, one 0845 and one 0800
HA	4	Two 0845 and two 0870
DSA	4	The four 0870 numbers are currently being changed to 0300 numbers. Both are being run simultaneously for a few months to assist customer migration, and 0870 will then be discontinued.
MCA	1	0870
VOSA	3	Two 0870 and one 0845
VGA	1	0844
GCDA	0	

Galileo

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effect of the positioning of a back-up control centre for Galileo in a different country from the primary control centre on the *(a)* costs and *(b)* operational effectiveness of the system. [180120]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The European Space Agency, which has the responsibility for the technical development of Galileo, has worked with European industry on the optimum design of the Galileo system, including the level of resilience that needs to be built into a system of this kind. This work identified the need for two fully interchangeable control centres that are geographically separated to protect against natural hazards such as earthquakes. The costs of the two centres are included in the cost ceiling of €3.4 billion for Galileo in the period of the Financial Perspective 2007-13.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the UK bid to host the permanent offices of Galileo; and if she will make a statement. [180312]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Wales Office, the Foreign Commonwealth Office and other Departments, continues to promote Cardiff as a location for the Galileo Supervisory Authority (GSA).

However, substantive discussions between member states on a permanent location for the GSA's offices will not take place until the authority's remit and powers have been defined in a European Regulation. This is expected to be passed later in the year.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on determining *(a)* which legal regime will govern the concession contract of the Galileo programme and *(b)* which courts will have jurisdiction over the contract. [180314]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It was originally envisaged that Galileo would be built and operated by a private sector body under a concession contract. However, the Transport Council concluded in June last year that these concession negotiations had failed and should end. Instead, the Community has agreed that the deployment and initial operation of Galileo to 2013 should be taken forward through a public procurement managed by the Commission.

The December Transport Council agreed that decisions on arrangements for the subsequent operation of the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems could be taken only after further studies, and invited the Commission to undertake these by the end of 2008 bringing forward proposals at the appropriate time. Issues over which legal regime would govern any concession contract for operations, or which courts would have jurisdiction, will be considered at that point.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects National Air Traffic Services Ltd to submit a design that is feasible and safe regarding mixed mode options for expanding Heathrow capacity as outlined in paragraphs 3.43 to 3.45, page 49 of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [181716]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* If the Government give policy support for mixed mode operations following the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation, it would then be a commercial decision for the airport operator, BAA, to determine whether they wish to pursue mixed mode operations.

If they do, BAA would seek the support of NATS (formerly 'National Air Traffic Services Ltd'), the air navigation services provider, to develop a detailed airspace change proposal in accordance with arrangements under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)'s independent Airspace Change Process.

At this stage, it is not possible to give accurate timings on when NATS might develop a detailed airspace change proposal for subsequent review and decision by the CAA. However, if Government gives a policy decision in support of mixed mode operations in 2008, BAA pursues its development soon after, and regulatory approval subject to detailed design is secured, DfT estimates, as set out in the consultation document, that introduction of mixed mode within the current capacity limit might be possible by 2010-11 and mixed mode above the current capacity limit by 2015.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document, what monetary value she has placed on the reduction in costs to passengers noted in paragraph 2.37, page 143-144; and if she will make a statement. [182436]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The breakdown of the monetised benefits from each option in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document is given in table 4.3 (p79) of 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The following table reproduces the figures for the three consultation document options. The first bullet point of paragraph 2.37, page 143-144, of the consultation

Option	*One*	*Two*	*Three*
Generated users	9	9	9
Existing users	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Freight users	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Producers	5	5	5
Government	3	3	3
Carbon	-5	-5	-5
Noise	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Delay Reductions:			
Users	[2]—	1	2
Carbon	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Total	12	13	14

[1] Non-zero impact is estimated, but the result rounds to nought at zero decimal places.

[2] No impact has been estimated.

Note:

Figures are rounded to zero decimal places.

Heathrow Airport: Air Passenger Duty

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document, Annex B Impact Assessment Options 1, 2 and 3, what amount of air passenger duty government tax revenue benefit was included as part of the key monetised benefits calculation for each option; and if she will make a statement. [179438]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The breakdown of the monetised benefits from each option in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document is given in table 4.3 (p79) of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The following table reproduces the figures for the three consultation document options. The "government" row of this table reports the estimated additional air passenger duty expected from each option.

Adding Capacity at Heathrow Consultation: Breakdown of transport user benefits by option

£ billion, NPV, 2006 prices

Option	*One*	*Two*	*Three*
Generated users	9	9	9
Existing users	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Freight users	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Producers	5	5	5
Government	3	3	3
Carbon	-5	-5	-5
Noise	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

Adding Capacity at Heathrow Consultation: Breakdown of transport user benefits by option

£ billion, NPV, 2006 prices

Option	*One*	*Two*	*Three*
Delay Reductions:			
Users	[2]—	1	2
Carbon	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Total	12	13	14

[1] A non-zero impact is estimated, but the result rounds to nought at zero decimal places.

[2] No impact has been estimated.

Note:

Figures are rounded to zero decimal places.

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Network Rail on its programme of engineering work over the Easter 2008 holiday period. [181953]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government have no power to intervene in Network Rail's operations. However, the Secretary of State met with Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, on 3 January 2008 to inform him that the disruption to rail services from the engineering over-runs over the Christmas/new year period was unacceptable; and to seek his assurance that such delays would not be repeated and that lessons will be learned.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the PV squared formula is the recommended method for establishing whether a pedestrian crossing is required on a particular stretch of road. [182694]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no such criterion in the Department's current guidance. PV^2 was superseded in 1995 by a decision framework approach in Local Transport Note 1/95, The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings. The current guidance lists a number of parameters to be considered including the number of vehicles, speed of approach, number of pedestrians, proximity of schools, and stations. Using these in a decision framework enables local authorities to compare alternative solutions and make an objective decision as to whether a crossing is needed and which type is most suitable.

Railways

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had regarding the operation of a rail service on each day of the year; what further discussions she plans to have; and if she will make a statement. [182378]

Mr. Tom Harris: Service provision on each day of the year is a matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national network, and the train operators.

Railways: Kent

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date her Department expects the Javelin-operated high speed domestic services from Kent to St. Pancras to be operational. [182552]

Mr. Tom Harris: Southeastern will begin operation of the high speed domestic services from Kent to St. Pancras in December 2009.

Railways: Radioactive Wastes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the numbers of train journeys which would be required to transport nuclear waste on the commissioning of new nuclear power stations in each year; and if she will make a statement. [181920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's White Paper on Meeting the Energy Challenge (A White Paper on Nuclear Power, January 2008) stated that new nuclear power stations built in the UK should proceed on the basis that the spent fuel will not require reprocessing. This will mean that the used nuclear fuel will be stored on the reactor site and the transport of it will be minimised during the lifetime of the reactor.

The Department for Transport therefore cannot make this estimate as information is not yet available on the number or types of reactors proposed to be built, or their locations.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths there were on roads in (i) West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St. Ives, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) the UK in each of the last 10 years. [182696]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* injuries (serious or slight) and *(b)* deaths resulting from reported personal injury road accidents from 1997 to 2006 in (i) St. Ives parliamentary constituency, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) Great Britain are shown in the table.

Number of casualties

	St. Ives constituency[1]		*Cornwall*		*Great Britain*	
	Injured[2]	*Killed*	*Injured*[2]	*Killed*	*Injured*[2]	*Killed*
1997	413	10	2,769	45	324,204	3,599
1998	441	4	2,676	37	321,791	3,421
1999	483	4	2,717	30	316,887	3,423
2000	420	6	2,616	35	316,874	3,409
2001	375	8	2,809	40	309,859	3,450
2002	405	8	2,676	53	299,174	3,431
2003	442	5	2,816	30	287,099	3,508
2004	420	3	2,694	44	277,619	3,221
2005	420	7	2,855	45	267,816	3,201
2006	412	11	2,640	50	255,232	3,172

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

[2] Serious and slight injuries.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths were sustained in collisions with emergency services vehicles on roads in (i) West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St. Ives, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) the UK in each of the last 10 years. [182697]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* injuries (serious or slight) and *(b)* deaths resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one emergency vehicle (ambulance, fire engine or police) from 1997 to 2006 in (i) St. Ives parliamentary constituency, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) Great Britain are shown in the table.

Number of casualties

	St Ives constituency[1]		*Cornwall*		*Great Britain*	
	Injured[2]	*Killed*	*Injured*[2]	*Killed*	*Injured*[2]	*Killed*
1997	5	0	20	0	4,338	24
1998	6	0	42	0	4,168	28
1999	8	0	33	0	3,983	28
2000	1	0	22	0	4,187	34
2001	1	0	20	0	3,994	36
2002	3	0	37	2	4,095	39
2003	5	0	29	1	3,909	41
2004	1	0	32	2	3,796	38
2005	3	0	33	0	3,377	32
2006	1	0	15	0	3,428	35

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
[2] Serious or slight injury.

Roads: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the application of tag and beacon technology in road pricing schemes. [181976]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Experience in a number of road tolling schemes around the world shows how tag and beacon technology can be a cost-effective way of charging for road use. We are encouraging the further exploration of its potential, including in the local pricing schemes that are being considered by local authorities, as part of packages combining investment in transport and demand management that could be supported by the Transport Innovation Fund.

Transport: Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost was of travelling a mile by *(a)* road, *(b)* rail and *(c)* air, expressed in (i) constant and (ii) current price in each year since 1997. [182337]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated average cost to passengers of travelling a mile by car (and van) and rail in both constant and current prices in pence are given in the following table. Information on passenger costs per mile for air travel is not available centrally.

	Rail[1]		*Car (and van)*[2]	
	Current	*2006-07 prices*	*Current*	*2006-07 prices*
1997-98	[1]—	[1]—	18	22
1998-99	[1]—	[1]—	20	24
1999-2000	14	17	20	24
2000-01	14	16	21	25
2001-02	15	17	22	25
2002-03	15	17	24	27
2003-04	15	16	24	26
2004-05	16	17	24	26
2005-06	17	18	24	25
2006-07	17	17	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Not available
[2] Not yet available

Notes:

1. Estimates are for the average cost faced by the transport user, net of any subsidy to the rail operators.
2. Motoring costs include expenditure on car purchase, spares, maintenance, insurance, taxation, fuel and parking, but excludes costs paid by employers.

Source:

Estimates for rail average costs are based on revenue collected by operators and mileage estimates published in National Rail Trends by the Office of the Rail Regulator. The car (and van) motoring costs estimates are based on household expenditure on private motoring from the Expenditure and Food Survey and the Family Expenditure Survey published in Food Spending 2006 by the Office for National Statistics and household mileage figures from the National Travel Survey (NTS) carried out on behalf of my Department. As some business mileage is included in the NTS, this methodology under estimates motoring costs.

Vehicle Registration: Fines

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been raised in revenue by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency via fines for failing to notify change of vehicle ownership in the last two years; what the cost has been of taking such action; and if she will make a statement. [180595]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) collected £1,103,000 from April 2005 to March 2006, £913,000 from April 2006 to March 2007 and £813,000 in the financial year to date (April 2007 to December 2007) in revenue from fines raised for failing to notify of a change of vehicle ownership.

This revenue is paid over directly to HM Treasury.

The DVLA for the first time began keeping a record of the estimated annual costs of taking action against failure to notify changes of vehicle ownership from April 2007. The estimated level of costs is £617,000 for the financial year April 2007 to March 2008.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Security

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the safety of departmental staff working in Afghanistan following the bombing of the Serena Hotel. [181227]

Dr. Howells: The safety of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff abroad is of paramount importance. Security of FCO personnel in Afghanistan is reviewed regularly and has been revisited since the attack on the Serena Hotel. We do not, however, comment on specific security arrangements at any mission overseas.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking in support of the United Nation Security Council's call for greater dialogue between the military government and pro-democracy leaders in Burma. [182174]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have made clear to UN, EU and regional partners the UK's support for the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices mission to seek reconciliation in Burma. We support Aung San Suu Kyi's call for 'meaningful and time-bound' dialogue between the regime and opposition and ethnic groups.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to increase the number of Burmese officials subject to the EU asset freeze and travel ban. [182198]

Meg Munn: The UK, with its EU partners, is considering a range of measures that could be implemented through the EU Common Position, should the Burmese regime fail to engage constructively with the UN or make significant progress towards political reform and genuine national reconciliation. Among the measures under consideration is an extension of the list of those covered by the asset freeze and visa ban under the Common Position.

18 more Burmese officials and 48 individuals who have benefited from the regime's economic policies were added to the list in November 2007.

Children's Rights: EC Action

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Treaty of Lisbon, if ratified, on the rights of children and young people. [175664]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty of Lisbon sets out for the first time in article 1.4 that the protection of children's rights is one of the objectives of the EU:

> "It (the EU) shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child."

The Government support this reference which ensures that children's rights are taken into account in the EU's actions.

The treaty also recognises the importance of protecting children's rights in its outward facing actions:

> "In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall... contribute to... eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child....".

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181886]

Meg Munn: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Department's annual reports, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. The vast majority of work undertaken for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by consultants is associated with its major Information Communication Technology and Estate construction programmes.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1427W, and to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Murphy) gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 852W, on the departmental internet, what the grade is of the locally engaged commercial officer who works on the blogging platform. [182807]

Meg Munn: The officer is a grade one locally engaged commercial officer.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179200]

Meg Munn: There are two 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers in use by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and related departmental bodies for public access to services. These are used for consular and visa enquiries.

Information relating to similar cost telephones at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Missions abroad is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Eritrea: Human Rights

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [181819]

Meg Munn: We monitor events in Eritrea closely and remain deeply concerned about Eritrea's human rights record.

Our embassy in Asmara is aware of the detention without charge by the Eritrean Government of members of minority religious groups, journalists, leading political figures and members of civil society. This is unacceptable and contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party.

Our ambassador in Asmara raises these issues with the Eritrean Government at every suitable opportunity. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials do likewise with the Eritrean embassy in the UK.

We also raise our concerns on human rights through the EU. For example the EU lobbied Eritrea on the sixth anniversary of the detention in September 2001 of the G11, 11 members of the Eritrean political party who protested at the government's direction in a letter to President Isaias, together with a number of journalists who were also detained at that time.

Following up on reports of human rights abuses is not easy in Eritrea. There are no independent local journalists. There are neither local nor international human rights non-governmental organisations operating in Eritrea. The police and security services are not willing to engage with embassies on these matters. Travel restrictions mean foreign diplomats may only leave Asmara with written permission.

We will continue to monitor the human rights situation in Eritrea, raising our concerns with the Eritrean Government whenever possible.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the treatment of Christians in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [181820]

Meg Munn: We continue to be concerned by reports of detentions of members of minority Christian Churches. While Orthodox Christians, Catholics and the major Protestant Churches, who make up an estimated 40-50 per cent. of the population of Eritrea, are usually able to worship openly, some church activities can be restricted and members of smaller churches are not free to pursue their faith.

We will continue to urge the Government of Eritrea to allow all its citizens to worship as they wish, as set out in article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ethiopia: Somalia

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of relations between Somalia and Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [181902]

Meg Munn: The Transitional Federal government of Somalia and the Government of Ethiopia maintain close relations. There is currently an Ethiopian military presence in Somalia at the request of the Transitional Federal government.

European Commission

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what liaison work is undertaken between his Department and the political intelligence section of the European Commission in London; what meetings have taken place as part of that work in the last 12 months; what matters have been discussed at these meetings; and who participated in them. [180308]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials liaise regularly with the European Commission's Delegation in London across the full range of EU issues.

Most recently I met the Head of the European Commission's London Delegation, Mr. Reijo Kemppinen, on 15 January. The meeting focussed on the issues of climate change and forthcoming visits by senior Commission figures to the UK.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to address the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [182928]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to helping all Palestinians, including the people of Gaza. In financial year 2007-08 the UK has provided £31 million bilaterally to the Palestinians: £15 million through the UN Relief and Works Agency; £1 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross' work in the west bank and Gaza; and £15 million through the Temporary International Mechanism.

We are deeply concerned by the escalating security and humanitarian situation in Gaza and southern Israel. We deplore the suffering on both sides and urge all parties to exercise restraint. All parties should work for the normal operation of the Gaza crossings.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place between the Government and the Israeli government on the situation in Gaza. [182929]

Dr. Howells: The Government continue to believe that Israeli security and Palestinian suffering and hardship need to be addressed together, and they can only be addressed through mutual recognition, which will be vital to long-term stability in the area.

As my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development said on 21 January:

> "The recent escalation of violence between Gazans and Israelis is extremely grave".

Our ambassador in Tel Aviv regularly raises our concerns with the Israeli government about the security and humanitarian situation in Gaza. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development have issued statements about the situation in Gaza on 30 October 2007, 11 January and 21 January 2008.

I made clear the Government's concerns on the situation in Gaza when I met the Israeli ambassador on 17 January.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will also be discussing the situation in Gaza with his European colleagues at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January. He raised our concerns in his conversation on 24 January with the Israeli Foreign Minister.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides on Holocaust Memorial Day. [181378]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears) represented the Government at the UK's main commemoration event at the London Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool on 27 January along with 1,600 other guests, including Holocaust and genocide survivors, young people from Liverpool, dignitaries and ambassadors. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London and around the world also be attended many of the hundreds of events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Government are deeply committed to promoting Holocaust education and remembrance, and to combating all forms of racism and anti-Semitism. To this end, we strongly support the work of the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, which works to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust across the world.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the unrest in Kenya developing into civil war; and if he will make a statement. [181750]

Meg Munn: The Government fully condemn all acts of violence in Kenya. While there is widespread tension across Kenya, outbreaks of violence have, for the most part, been limited to parts of Western, Nyanza, and Rift Valley provinces, informal settlements in Nairobi and parts of Mombasa Town. It is important that all Kenya's leaders come together in a process of dialogue to agree a way forward that respects the democratic will of the Kenyan people and restores Kenya to peace, stability and prosperity.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the merits of establishing an international sanctions regime against the government of Kenya in response to recent civil unrest within Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [181752]

Meg Munn: The Government are deeply concerned about the post-election crisis in Kenya. This is why we are fully supporting the African Union initiative to facilitate talks between the political parties. The current focus is on restoring stability through political agreement. The international community has not ruled out any options in seeking to help return Kenya to the path of peace, stability and prosperity.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* whether the recent elections in Kenya were fair and free and *(b)* reported irregularities during the period of the election; and if he will make a statement. [181751]

Meg Munn: We share the concerns raised by the East Africa Community, Commonwealth election observation reports and the EU preliminary statement about alleged irregularities in the conduct of the Kenyan elections, specifically in the tallying process. These irregularities need to be investigated.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his officials last met members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if he will make a statement. [181237]

Dr. Howells: In November 2006, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials travelled with my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy) to meet the then political head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In addition, officials regularly meet community groups, who reflect a variety of views, some supportive of the LTTE's political position. During a debate in the House on Sri Lanka on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-1188, I stressed the importance that we attach to listening to views from across the communities and called on the Sri Lankan diaspora to play a constructive role in bringing peace.

Natural Resources: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what means the Government are supporting the Kimberley Process on conflict diamonds; and what funding the Government are providing to support the continuation of the process. [181430]

Meg Munn: The UK is fully committed to implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The Government Diamond Office, sits within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and works closely with HM Revenue and Customs, the UK diamond industry and civil society groups to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

In the past year, an official from the Government Diamond Office has taken part in Kimberley Process review visits to Romania and Bulgaria. A staff member of the Government Diamond Office also formed part of last year's extraordinary review mission to Ghana, as part of wider efforts to ensure full compliance of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme among all participants in order to eradicate the trade in conflict diamonds.

In 2007, the UK supported the European Union's chairmanship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme by funding a non-governmental organisation secondee to provide logistical support to European Commission.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding the Government are providing to promoting the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative scheme. [181731]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided to date a total of £6.9 million to support the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) globally.

Sri Lanka

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met members of the Sri Lankan Government; what was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [181235]

Dr. Howells: When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in November 2007, at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kampala, he reiterated our view that respect for human rights and democracy would help ensure a strong Sri Lanka and that we stood ready to support a process of reconciliation.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans next to meet representatives of the Sri Lankan Government. [181236]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to meet representatives of the Sri Lankan Government. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials here and in Colombo remain in regular contact with Sri Lankan Government representatives.

Sri Lanka: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the deployment of child soldiers in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [181238]

Dr. Howells: The UN Children's Fund and Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, regularly report on the recruitment of child soldiers by both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and Tamileela Peoples Liberation Tigers (known as the TMVP). We condemn the recruitment of children in violation of international law and praise the continuing efforts of UN agencies under difficult circumstances to combat this appalling practice.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's involvement in the peace process in Sri Lanka. [181234]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to my statement during the debate on Sri Lanka in the House on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-1188.

Williams Draft Dossier

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs further to the decision of the Information Tribunal dated 22 January 2008, when he plans to make public a copy of the Williams draft dossier; and in what format the document will be made available. [182538]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is considering the judgment and the legal options available to it. It would be premature to say anything more at this stage.

If, and when, the document is made available it will be released in the form in which we have it, subject to a very small redaction in the manuscript annotations that the Information Tribunal ordered should be made under section 27 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs further to the decision of the Information Tribunal dated 22 January 2008, paragraph 22 (iv), which two individuals annotated the Williams draft; and what status these contributions had within the drafting process. [182693]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently considering the Information Tribunal's judgment and the legal options available to it. It would not be appropriate to comment on the specifics of the document at this stage.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff within the Cabinet Office work for the Prime Minister's Office, other than those directly employed by that Office. [181304]

Edward Miliband: One of the Cabinet Office's key objectives is 'Supporting the Prime Minister to define and deliver the Government's objectives'. Details of staff numbers that support this objective are provided in the Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2007 which is published on the Cabinet Office website and is available in the Library of the House.

WALES

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181894]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The only consultancy contract the Wales Office has issued since 2005 was in 2006-07. ER consultants were appointed to conduct staff surveys and provide analysis, facilitation and support for the change management programme.

The total cost of the contract was £37,699.

The various activities did not give rise to a written report.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182710]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [181603]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181632]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost for the years 1999 to 2003-04.

2004-05

Travel within UK totalled £81,599.75

Travel outside UK totalled £18,238.

This accounts for 3 per cent. of the total expenditure for that year.

2005-06

Travel within UK totalled £123,754.69.

Travel outside UK totalled £546.

This accounts for 3 per cent. of the total expenditure for that year.

2006-07

Travel within UK totalled £79,435.23.

Travel outside UK totalled £8,416.

This accounts for 2 per cent. of the total expenditure for that year.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181592]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Detailed information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost for the years 1999 to 2003-04.

Officials from my Department have travelled overseas only since 2004 to accompany Ministers. The cost of overseas visits by officials since 2004 was:

2004-05

£18,238 for one visit to China.

2006-07

£8,697.51 for one visit to the United States of America.

£450.00 for one visit to Brussels.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost was of engaging Veredus Recruitment Consultants to recruit the Chair, Commissioner and non-executives for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; [181255]

(2) what criteria were used in selecting Veredus Recruitment Consultants to recruit the Chair, Commissioner and non-executives for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [181256]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 87WS. The precise costs incurred to engage Veredus to recruit the Chair, Commissioner and non-executives for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are commercially confidential.

The selection of Veredus Recruitment Consultants to recruit the Chair Commissioner and non-executives for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was made through the Cabinet Office framework for services of this type and was based on the principles of fair and open competition and value for money.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rationale is for taking a parent's new partner's income into account in setting contributions under the old Child Support Agency rules; and if he will give consideration to amending the old rules to reflect the situation under the new rules. [179729]

Mr. Plaskitt: Statutory maintenance schemes have been designed around the principle that the responsibility to support a child applies to its natural or adoptive parents.

Responsibility does not extend to a parent's new partner. In the old child support scheme, the non-resident parent's partner's income may be taken into account in order to assess the extent to which the partner may be expected to contribute financially to the upkeep of any children of their relationship, and to ensure that that family has sufficient disposable income to meet their day-to-day needs. This could affect the amount of maintenance that the non-resident parent must pay.

Under the new child support scheme, introduced in March 2003, the method of calculating child support maintenance was simplified in a number of ways, which included removing the need to take into account the non-resident parent's partner's income.

Currently there are no plans to change the old rules to reflect the new rules. However, once the future scheme, currently being debated by Parliament in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, is fully implemented, all cases will operate on a single set of rules and, as with the new scheme, no account will be taken of a parent's new partner's income.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172510]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W.

Disability Living Allowance: Partially Sighted

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the Royal National Institute for the Blind on whether severe sight loss should be included as criteria for qualifying for the higher-rate mobility component of the disability living allowance. [177057]

Mrs. McGuire: I have met with representatives of RNIB on 11 September 2006 and again on 4 December 2007. Officials from the Department met and corresponded with representatives of RNIB on a number of occasions in 2007, most recently on 13 December 2007.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have taken part in pathways broken down by *(a)* ethnicity, *(b)* age of youngest child and *(c)* number of children. [177973]

Caroline Flint: The available information is in the following tables.

Information on the number of lone parents who have taken part in new deal for lone parents broken down by number of children is not available.

Number of lone parents who have taken part in new deal for lone parents by ethnicity, cumulative until August 2007

Ethnic group	*Number of lone parents*
White	660,860
Black—Caribbean	21,250
Black—African	17,040
Black—Other	4,950
Indian	5,680
Pakistani	6,740
Bangladeshi	1,510
Chinese	1,010
Mixed/Other	20,200
Prefer not to say	49,800
Not recorded	27,840
Total	816,880

Number of lone parents who have taken part in new deal for lone parents by age of youngest child, cumulative until August 2007

	Age group of youngest child	*Number of lone parents*
0-2		178,140
3-5		178,210
6-8		137,810
9-12		144,120
13-15		104,260
Unknown		74,350
Total		816,880

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands and therefore may not sum.
2. Ethnic group is self-assessed and recorded on the Labour Market System.
3. Information relates to lone parents who have taken part in the New deal for lone parents only.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to visit a job centre; and which job centres he has visited since 20 July 2007. [181851]

James Purnell: I took up post in the Department on Thursday 24 January and my officials are in the process of developing a full programme of visits.

Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were living in relative poverty, below 40 per cent. of median income, in the UK in each year between 1979 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [174821]

Caroline Flint: The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. We do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our Households Below Average Income series as it is not a good measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the family resources survey (FRS) may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Available information is shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of individuals living below 40 per cent. of median income in each year between 1979 and 2005-06 where data are available

	Before Housing Costs		After Housing Costs	
	Number (million)	*Percentage*	*Number (million)*	*Per cent*
1979	1.0	2	1.3	2
1981	1.1	2	1.5	3
1987	1.5	3	2.8	5
1988-89	2.4	4	3.9	7
1990-91	3.1	5	4.7	8
1991-92	2.9	5	4.8	9
1992-93	2.9	5	5.0	9
1993-95	2.6	5	5.0	9
1994-96	2.4	4	5.0	9
1995-97	2.4	4	5.2	9
1994-95	2.3	4	4.6	8
1995-96	2.3	4	4.2	8
1996-97	2.4	4	4.9	9
1997-98	2.7	5	4.8	9
1998-99	2.7	5	4.8	8
1999-00	2.9	5	4.9	9
2000-01	3.0	5	4.9	8
2001-02	2.8	5	4.6	8
2002-03	3.0	5	4.9	8
2003-04	3.0	5	5.0	9
2004-05	2.9	5	4.9	8
2005-06	3.2	5	5.2	9

Sources:

1. 1979 to 1997: Family Expenditure Survey (UK)

2. 1994 to 1998: Family Resources Survey (GB)

3. 1998 to 2006: Family Resources Survey (UK)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those aged 16 to 24 years were classed as living in poverty in each financial year since 1989-90. [174854]

Caroline Flint: Available information is shown in the following table.

Number of people aged 16 to 24 living in relative poverty, 1994-95 to 2005-06

Million

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1994-95	1.2	1.8
1995-96	1.0	1.6
1996-97	1.2	1.8
1997-98	1.1	1.6
1998-99	1.0	1.6
1999-2000	1.1	1.6
2000-01	1.1	1.5
2001-02	1.1	1.5
2002-03	1.2	1.7
2003-04	1.1	1.7
2004-05	1.2	1.7
2005-06	1.4	2.0

Notes:

1. Data are not available from this source for 1989-90 to1993-94.
2. The information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are Great Britain only.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as a proxy for standard of living using the OECD equivalence scale.
4. This response uses the Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty, defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.
5. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
6. Amounts in the tables have been presented in millions, rounded to the nearest 100,000 people.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, 1994-95 to 2005-06.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children living in poverty are in households liable to pay full council tax; and if he will make a statement. [174847]

Caroline Flint: Just under a quarter of all children living in relative poverty are in households liable for full council tax.

Notes:

1. Households are defined as being in poverty if their income is less than 60 per cent. of the national median equivalised income level. Income here is measured on a before housing costs basis.

2. These figures have been derived using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). These are estimated indicative figures.

3. The PSM models the calculation of individual taxes and income-related benefit entitlement, by deriving detailed microdata from the latest available FRS.

4. The PSM models the current policy year (2007-08) using the latest FRS data (2005-06), by up-rating the FRS to represent the appropriate policy year.

5. The analysis provided assumes full take-up of income-related benefits in the current policy year.

Poverty: Council Tax

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people classed as living in poverty paid full council tax in each financial year since 1993-94. [174848]

Caroline Flint: Fewer poor households would pay full council tax if households took up their entitlement to council tax benefit. According to the National Statistics publication, 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up in 2005-06', take-up of council tax benefit by non-pensioners is relatively high (in the range of 73 to 81 per cent. of those eligible in 2005-06). While the level of council tax benefit take-up in 2005-06 among pensioners is lower, it increased as a percentage of those eligible in 2005-06 for the first time since 1997 to the range 54 to 60 per cent.

Available information on how many households in poverty paid full council tax is shown in the following table.

Number of households (millions) in relative poverty paying full council tax

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1994-95	2.2	2.4
1995-96	2.0	2.2
1996-97	2.1	2.3
1997-98	2.2	2.3
1998-99	2.3	2.5
1999-2000	2.5	2.6
2000-01	2.6	2.8
2001-02	2.7	2.8
2002-03	2.7	2.9
2003-04	2.7	2.8
2004-05	2.6	2.8
2005-06	2.7	3.0

Notes:

1. Data are not available from this source for 1993-94.
2. The information shown is for Great Britain.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
5. The preferred measure of low income is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.
6. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
7. Tables show numbers in millions rounded to the nearest £100 thousand.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, 1994/95 to 2005-06.

Social Security Benefits: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in benefits to non-UK nationals in the last year for which figures are available. [181767]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available; no record is kept of claimants' nationalities.

Social Security Benefits; Fraud

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for crimes relating to benefit fraud in the London Borough of Havering in each of the last four years. [181693]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding DWP administered benefits is not available below national and regional level.

The available information regarding local authority administered benefits is in the table.

Prosecutions due to housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud in the London borough of Havering

	Number of cases accepted for prosecution	*Number of successful prosecutions*
2003-04	13	10
2004-05	14	15
2005-06	18	10
2006-07	23	20

Source:

Estimates are based on Stats 124 administrative data returns

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for crimes relating to benefit fraud in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [182094]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding DWP administered benefits is not available below national and regional level.

The available information regarding local authority administered benefits is in the table.

Prosecutions due to housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud in the London borough of Bexley

	Number of cases accepted for prosecution	*Number of successful prosecutions*
2003-04	24	22
2004-05	31	19
2005-06	23	15
2006-07	31	26

Source:

Estimates are based on Stats 124 administrative data returns

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioners eligible for means-tested support were overpaid as a result of errors in the application process in the most recent year for which figures are available. [181635]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Unemployment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) of 7 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 5, what proportion of children are living in workless households in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each other EU member state. [178024]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The latest UK Labour Force Survey data indicate that 15.9 per cent. of children live in workless households, a fall of 450,000 (or 2.9 percentage points) since 1997. This is greater than the rate of improvement seen in the EU15, where the proportion of children in workless households has fallen by 1.9 percentage points since 1997.

There has been a similar above average improvement in the proportion of children in relative poverty since 1997 as the Secretary of State indicated in his answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 5.

Detailed information on the current position by country of the proportions of children in workless households is set out in the following table:

Proportion of children living in workless households in the UK and other EU states in 2007

	Percentage
EU (27 countries)	[1]9.4
EU15	[1]9.3
United Kingdom (ONS estimate)	15.9
United Kingdom (Eurostat estimate)	16.7
Hungary	14.0
Belgium	13.5
Bulgaria	12.9
Ireland	11.2
Slovakia	10.5
France	9.8
Croatia	[2]9.8
Poland	9.5
Romania	9.4
Germany	9.3
Latvia	8.6
Malta	8.4
Czech Republic	7.9
Estonia	7.3
Lithuania	6.9
Austria	6.1
Netherlands	5.9
Italy	5.8
Denmark	[2]5.0
Spain	5.0
Finland	[2]4.9
Portugal	4.8
Luxembourg	4.0
Greece	3.9
Cyprus	3.7
Slovenia	2.5

[1] Estimate.

[2] Data refer to 2006.

Note:

Eurostat definition of children in workless households is "children aged 0 to 17 who are living in households where no one is working". Definition used by ONS is "percentage of children aged under 16 in a working-age household where no adult works".

Source:

EU Labour Force Survey and UK Office for National Statistics.

Unemployment: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed people under the age of 25 years there were in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181655]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed people under the age of 25 years there were in (a) Romford (b) Essex and (c) Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available. (181655)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows estimates of the number of unemployed, aged 16-24, for Romford constituency, for Essex and for London for the 12 months ending June 2007, which is the latest date for which figures are available encompassing all 3 geographies specified.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2 shows the monthly figure for people aged 18 to 24 claiming JSA in Romford, Essex and London for June 2007. Note, people aged 16 and 17 are not eligible to claim JSA.

Table 1: Unemployed persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in Romford, Essex and London for the 12 months ending June 2007

		Thousand
	Level	*Rate[1] (Percentage)*
Romford	[2]—	[2]—
Essex	10	7
London	104	12

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.

[2] Estimates not available since the group sampling size is zero or disclosive

Note:

Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

Source:

Annual Population Survey, ONS.

Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance, aged 18 to 24, resident in Romford, Essex and London in June 2007

	Number	*Proportion[1] (Percentage)*
Romford	275	[2]—
Essex	4,200	4
London	37,085	5

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of claimant count + work force jobs.

[2] Estimates not available.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workless households there were in Peterborough constituency in each year since 1997. [181557]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of workless households in the Peterborough Constituency. (181557)

The attached table gives the number of workless working-age households in Peterborough Constituency for the three months ending in June of 1999 and 2001-2007. Comparable figures for 1997, 1998 and 2000 are not currently available. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

A household is defined as a single person, or a group of people living at the same address who have the address as their only main residence and either share one main meal a day or share the living accommodation (or both). A workless working-age household is one that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Workless households[1] in Peterborough parliamentary constituency[2] April-June 1999 to 2007, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Number of workless households
1999	5
2000	n/a
2001	4
2002	5
2003	5
2004	4
2005	6
2006	6
2007	4

n/a = comparable estimates for 2000 are not currently available.

[1] A workless household is a household with at least one person of working age (male aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59), and in which no one aged 16 or over is in employment.

[2] Figures have not been adjusted to include estimates for households with unknown economic activity.

Note:

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162356, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on the new deal. [171138]

Caroline Flint: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162678, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on the new deal for young people. [171151]

Caroline Flint: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 939W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162677, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on the new deal 25 plus. [171153]

Caroline Flint: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 466W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162359, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on the new deal. [171162]

Caroline Flint: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 939W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Feed: Pesticides

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which public authority has lead responsibility for the monitoring of pesticide residues in animal feed and animal feed ingredients; and if he will make a statement. [182121]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding 25 January answer 2008]:* The Food Standards Agency has lead responsibility for the Feeding Stuffs (England) Regulations 2005, which set maximum permitted levels for chemical contaminants including certain pesticides in animal feed. Separate but parallel feeding stuff regulations are in place for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Great Britain, local authorities are responsible for the enforcement of this legislation and monitoring of feed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the regulations. In Northern Ireland enforcement and monitoring is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate has lead responsibility for The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 which set maximum levels for pesticide residues in plants and animal products whether they may be used for human food or animal feed. Separate but parallel regulations are in place for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Pesticides Safety Directorate is responsible for the UK's national pesticide monitoring plan, with the advice of the independent Pesticide Residues Committee.

Animals: Abuse

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined, *(d)* banned from keeping animals, *(e)* imprisoned and *(f)* otherwise punished for offences to cruelty to animals in each year since 1997, broken down by type of animal involved. [181498]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The individual circumstances of animal cruelty offences, including the type of animal involved, and data on charging, are not held centrally.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of cruelty to animals, broken down by type of animal. [181499]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* There are a number of measures in place that provide protection to animals generally and are not species specific. For example, last year the Government introduced the Animal Welfare Act 2006, under which it is an offence to cause an animal, under the control of man, any unnecessary suffering. The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 makes it an offence to intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering on wild mammals. In addition, the Government are committed to improving the welfare of animals such as through the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and the Animal Welfare Delivery Strategy.

Avian Influenza: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what method of storage his Department requires for samples taken for testing for H5N1 virus. [180685]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The samples for routine dead wild bird surveillance are collected according to standardised protocols, accredited to a United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) International Standards Organisation (ISO)17025 quality system. DEFRA employs the diagnostic expertise of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge, which is the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and European Union (EU) Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (AI). Our sampling, collection, storage and transportation methods are entirely consistent with international and European Union standards. We continually revise and subject all aspects of our AI surveillance activities to peer review in light of new international evidence as it arises. Our testing regime conforms to the highest standards for protecting animal and public health.

The delivery target for the following dead wild bird surveillance activities is five days. Eligible wild birds are collected from the field by a collection agency operator (generally from the Meat and Livestock Commission) in a biosecure manner, including double bagging of the bird to protect operator health and safety. The wild birds are then delivered to the nearest VLA regional laboratory, where they are refrigerated (+4° Celsius) pending sampling. Once samples are collected from the wild bird at the VLA regional laboratory they will also be stored at +4° Celsius. Samples are then packaged and despatched. Rapid courier delivery of specimens collected in this manner ensures high quality material is received at the VLA headquarters laboratory for testing. Testing of the samples at VLA Weybridge usually commences as soon as practically possible upon the day of receipt, with samples held at +4°Celsius as required.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to introduce a badger cull in those areas in Devon most affected by Bovine TB. [182076]

Jonathan Shaw: The question of whether badger culling has a role to play in controlling bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle is complex.

We are currently considering this complex issue, taking into account all the available scientific evidence, including the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) and the assessment of the scientific evidence made by the Government's former chief scientific adviser, Sir David King. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has already met with former members of the ISG including Professor John Bourne; and separately with Sir David King. We also wish to take into account the views from the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee following its inquiry into badgers and bovine TB.

While we are keen to make progress on reaching a decision, there is no specific timetable for doing so.

BSE: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made towards its public service agreement target of a reduction in the number of cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy detected by both passive and active surveillance to less than 60 in 2006, with the disease being eradicated by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [181485]

Jonathan Shaw: There were 104 bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) cases in Great Britain (GB) in 2006. In 2007, the number of cases fell by 49 per cent. to 53.

DEFRA is continuing to work towards its public service agreement target of eradicating BSE in GB by 2010. However, due to the long incubation period of BSE, achievement of this target will be determined by past events and will be affected by the EU's surveillance regime and the longevity of cattle born before August 1996, in which the prevalence of infection is highest. The Government are working with industry leaders to encourage producers to dispose of these cattle under the older cattle disposal scheme before it closes at the end of 2008.

Future BSE cases born after the reinforced feed ban in August 1996 could also impact on our achievement of the 2010 target although epidemiological assessments have demonstrated a clear decline in the prevalence of BSE infection in successive birth cohorts born after July 1996.

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180691]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure with Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries since financial year 2001-02 is tabled as follows:

£

Vendor Name	*2007-08*[1]	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Capita Business Services Ltd.	545,419.58	665,791.98	260,330.72	545,482.32	536,763.48	453,988.49	564,393.03

£

Vendor Name	2007-08[1]	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
Capita Communications	129,460.10	88,610.18	—	—	—	—	—
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	2,461.36	10,976.10	11,414.84	—	—	—	—
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	647,629.62	1,147,946.59	785,684.49	44,106.84	—	—	—
Capita Symonds Ltd.	37,461.58	329,480.73	505,096.75	89,441.06	—	—	146,057.21
Capita Pensions Administration Services	673,058.74	—	—	—	—	—	—
Capita HR and Financial Resourcing	—	—	—	14,747.63	—	—	—
Capita Property Consultancy Ltd.	—	—	—	—	85,078.85	94,335.64	—
Capita DBS Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	12,496.50	448,053.30

[1] April to December.

The other information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the target for reducing UK carbon emissions to 80 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [181344]

Mr. Woolas: The Government will put this evidence to the independent, expert Committee on Climate Change and ask it to advise, as it begins to consider the first three five-year budgets on whether our own domestic target should be increased up to 80 per cent. The Committee is being established in shadow form so that, subject to parliamentary passage of the Bill, it would be able to provide this advice as soon as possible.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179949]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on what items of the Department's revenue and expenditure are uprated using the consumer prices index, the retail prices index, and other measures of inflation could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There is no presumption of uprating revenue and expenditure items as a matter of course. The Department considers the applicability or otherwise of uprating revenue and expenditure items in the context of inflation management dependent on, but not limited to: the prevailing market conditions; the nature and type of revenue and expenditure; the terms of enabling legislation; fees and charges guidance; the duration of the revenue and expenditure; the appropriate index and indices for the revenue and expenditure category; service performance and delivery and, scheme conditions. Contract clauses where agreed pertaining to inflation management are commercial in confidence.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181887]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-99W.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179199]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is set out in the following table.

DEFRA, Executive agency or non-departmental public body	Customer contact service	08XX Number
DEFRA	DEFRA Helpline	08459 33 55 77
Animal Health	National Scrapie Plan	0845 601 4858
	Welfare in Transit	0845 603 8395
	Pet Travel Scheme Helpline	0870 241 1710
Government Decontamination Service	—	08458 501323
Rural Payments Agency	Rural Payments Agency Customer Service Centre	0845 603 7777
	British Cattle Movement Service	
	English line	0845 050 1234
	Welsh line	0845 050 3456

DEFRA, Executive agency or non-departmental public body	*Customer contact service*	*08XX Number*
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	—	0845 000 0134
Consumer Council for Water	—	0845 039 2837
Environment Agency	National Customer Contact Centre	08708 506 506
	Incident Hotline	0800 80 70 60
	Hazardous Waste Registration	08708 502 858
	Agricultural Waste Registration	0845 603 3113
	Flood Line	0845 988 1188
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	—	0845 602 5021
Natural England		0845 600 3078

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [181876]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer given 24 January 2008]:* DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested for each year since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the current financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries. In addition, offsetting the flights of DEFRA, the FCO, the DfID and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005. DEFRA has offset rail and vehicle travel since 2006 and 2007 respectively.

For the period April 2006 to December 2007 inclusive from information held centrally, the miles officials travelled by rail and air are:

Officials' miles

	Rail	Air
2007		
October to December	821,091	1,369,877
July to September	324,962	579,196
April to June	153,808	156,506
January to March	846,942	1,202,971
2006		
October to December 2006	711,689	946,247
July to September 2006	685,881	1,303,289
April to June 2006	794,269	1,314,444

From information held centrally, the car mileage travelled by officials since financial year 2002-03 is:

	Miles
2006-07	19,717,612
2005-06	22,618,001
2004-05	20,726,000
2003-04	20,381,000
2002-03	20,510,000

These figures include 50,522 miles for ministerial cars in 2006-07 and taxi mileages of 137,005 and 47,000 in 2006-07 and 2005-06 respectively. Information on car mileage includes where known data for core-DEFRA, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aqua-cultural Science, the Government Decontamination Service, the State Veterinary Service, the Marine Fisheries Agency, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, the Central Science Laboratory, the Rural Payments Agency and the Pentacles Safety Directorate. Year-on-year figures are not strictly comparable due to the machinery of government changes that have affected DEFRA since its creation in June 2001, and from changes to departmental financial systems.

Dogs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to changing the breeds and types banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and if he will make a statement. [177722]

Jonathan Shaw: The types of dogs prohibited under section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act are constantly kept under review. However, there are no plans to make any changes to the types of dogs prohibited.

Eggs: Labelling

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the results have been of the investigations by his Department and others into the allegations of incorrect labelling of free-range eggs as announced in his news release of 15 November 2006; and if he will make a statement. [180795]

Jonathan Shaw: Investigations into possible criminal activities are continuing.

The news release of 15 November 2006 announced that DEFRA had become concerned about possible illegal practice in the egg industry. In the course of investigations information had come to light that eggs had been incorrectly labelled, including the labelling of non-free range eggs as free range. The Government called on the egg industry and retailers to ensure that the eggs they are selling are correctly labelled. The Egg Marketing Inspectorate are continuing to focus their activities in this area, to ensure that any eggs marketed in this country are correctly identified.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to the establishment of ring-fenced and self-contained arrangements for the aviation sector within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [181515]

Mr. Woolas: The Government support an open trading scheme, as was agreed at the December 2007 Environment Council. Under this agreement, aviation operators will be enabled to purchase EU allowances to cover emissions beyond the agreed cap, where they have not made sufficient reductions within their own sector. These additional emissions may also be covered by Kyoto project credits up to a limit of 15 per cent. of the total number of allowances surrendered by operators. The advantage of this approach is that it will enable aviation, as a sector with limited short term abatement options, to purchase allowances that have resulted from real emission reductions in other sectors to meet its obligations.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the flood defence budget allocated to the North East region is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [181563]

Mr. Woolas: The North East region is taken to mean Yorkshire (covering Yorkshire and the north bank of the Humber estuary) and Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committees (RFDC). Their indicative allocations are shown in the following table:

		Allocation (£ million)
	Yorkshire RFDC	*Northumbria RFDC*
2008-09	43.4	7.2
2009-10	51	6.7
2010-11	58.2	12.1

Allocations are from the Environment Agency to the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

These figures do not include funding for local authorities or internal drainage boards.

The Department will be seeking promotional activity on these figures to reassure the public.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward measures to require water companies to fund severe flooding alleviation measures. [181913]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat included in water and sewerage companies' price limits around £1.2 billion investment (2006-07 prices) in measures to contain and reduce the risk of sewer flooding during the 2005-10 period. This will enable undertakers to reduce the risk or impact of sewer flooding, for known or emerging problems, where overloaded sewers cause repeated internal flooding and where the companies have proposed taking action by 2010.

Ofwat expects sewerage companies to identify cost-beneficial investments in further measures to reduce flooding risks in their business plans for the next price review period (2010-15).

As part of our contribution to Ofwat's 2009 periodic review of price limits, we have published a 'Statement of Obligations' describing the main statutory obligations that apply in particular to water and sewerage companies. The statement reminds the companies of their duty under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991, to ensure that their area is effectually drained.

Flood Controls

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action has been taken by *(a)* the Inland Drainage Board and *(b)* the Environment Agency to stop the backing up of (i) Saundby Beck, (ii) Wheatley Beck and (iii) Leverton Beck. [181994]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The Environment Agency identified that the pointing flood doors on the outfall of the Saundby Beck into the River Trent were leaking. Subject to weather conditions, River Trent levels and heights of the tides, the Environment Agency will replace the gates by the end of March 2008. The Environment Agency will also install a penstock behind the gates that can be closed in the future, in the event that they either fail to operate or leak.

The Environment Agency has completed a detailed engineering inspection of the pointing flood doors on the outfall of the Wheatley Beck into the River Trent. The doors were found to be in a poorer condition than expected and of a non-standard design. The Environment Agency has replaced one of the doors with a fixed plate, to allow contractors to use it as a template. Subject to weather conditions, River Trent levels and heights of the tides, the Environment Agency will replace the gates before the end of March 2008.

Leverton Beck is outside the remit of the Environment Agency as it is not classified as main river.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines on managing flood risk his Department has issued to *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* local authority social services departments, *(c)* the Highways Agency, *(d)* Network Rail and *(e)* utilities companies. [182933]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA and the Environment Agency produce flood risk information and general advice through a range of media. Since the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA 2004) was introduced, my Department has contributed to a significant amount of national guidance prepared by the Cabinet Office on managing risks, including flooding. This guidance is for the wider emergency planning community and is accessible on the UK resilience website and covers emergency planning, response and recovery aspects of flooding.

All local authorities and their respective departments, the Highways Agency, Network Rail and utility companies should be referring to this guidance when fulfilling their emergency planning duties and responsibilities under the CCA.

With regards to local education authorities, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has developed a series of web pages giving advice on how schools can cope with emergencies, one of which is on flooding.

Floods: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the flood defence grant in aid budget for the next three financial years for *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* the Lancashire county council area; and if he will make a statement; [182691]

(2) how much he has allocated to the Environment Agency via the flood defence grant in aid for the Lancashire area for each of the next three financial years for *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [182695]

Mr. Woolas: I have regular discussions with the Environment Agency on a range of issues including national funding levels. However decisions on individual regional funding allocations are a matter for the agency.

Flood and coastal erosion risk spending will rise from its current level of £600 million to £800 million in 2010-11. No final decisions have yet been made on how these record levels of investment will be allocated but a formal announcement will be made in due course.

Floods: Midlands

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the flood defence grant in aid budget for the next three financial years for the Midlands area; and if he will make a statement; [181519]

(2) how much he has allocated to the Environment Agency via the flood defence grant in aid for the Midlands area for each of the next three financial years, in *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue; and if he will make a statement. [181520]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer given 24 January 2008]*: I have regular discussions with the Environment Agency on a range of issues including national funding levels. However, decisions on individual regional funding allocations are a matter for the agency.

Flood and coastal erosion risk spending will rise from its current level of £600 million to £800 million in 2010-11. No final decisions have yet been made on how these record levels of investment will be allocated but a formal announcement will be made in due course.

Food: Glyphosate

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum residue limit is for glyphosate in *(a)* soya meal, *(b)* whole soya beans, *(c)* tofu, *(d)* soya pieces and mince, *(e)* soya oil, *(f)* eggs, *(g)* poultry meat, *(h)* milk and dairy products, *(i)* beef and *(j)* pork; and if he will make a statement. [182122]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: European Community maximum residue levels (MRLs) are set on primary produce rather than processed products. There are therefore no EC MRLs for *(a)* soya meal, *(c)* tofu, *(d)* soya pieces and mince, *(e)* soya oil. The EC MRLs for the primary produce are:

	Mg/kg
	EC MRL
Whole soya beans	20
Eggs	[1]0.01
Poultry meat	0.05
Milk and dairy products	[1]0.01
Beef	0.05
Pork	0.05

[1] The limit of determination (LOD) is the lowest concentration of a pesticide residue that can be measured using routine analysis.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what soya products have been tested for glyphosate residues by the Pesticides Residues Committee since 1996; what the country of origin of each product was; what the date of each test was; and what level of any glyphosate was found to be present in each case. [182120]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: In 1999 the predecessor to the Pesticide Residues Committee (PRC), the Working Party on Pesticide Residues (WPPR) analysed 43 samples of soya products for 13 pesticide residues including glyphosate at a reporting level of 0.1 mg/kg. The products included were soya milk, soya mince, and tofu. Glyphosate was not found at or above the reporting level in any of the samples.

In their quarter 2 report of 2006 published in December 2006 the Pesticide Residues Committee reported the results of their survey of 60 samples of soya milk. Glyphosate was sought but not found at or above the reporting level of 0.1 mg/kg in any of the samples.

In their quarter 4 report of 2006 published in June 2007 the PRC reported the results for their survey of 60 samples of soya pieces and tofu. Glyphosate was sought but not found at or above the reporting level of 0.1 mg/kg in 49 out of the 60 samples. It was found at levels ranging from 0.1 to 1.1 mg/kg in 11 samples as outlined in the following table.

The country of origin is taken from the food packaging. It may be the country where the soya was grown, or where the food was produced or where it was packed for sale.

Date of sample	*Description*	*Country of origin*	*Retail outlet*	*Address*	*Brand name*	*Packer/manufacturer*	*Pesticide residues found in mg/kg (MRL*
13 November 2006	Meat free soya mince	UK	Asda	Bruton Way, Gloucester, GL1 1LS	Asda	Asda Stores Ltd, Southbank, Great Wilson street, Leeds LS11 5AD	Glyphosate0.2 (no MRL)
13 November 2006	Meat free soya mince	UK	Asda	Bruton Way, Gloucester, GL1 1LS	Asda	Asda Stores Ltd, Southbank, Great Wilson street, Leeds LS11 5AD	Glyphosate 0.1 (no MRL)
14 October 2006	Savoury mince	Brazil	Holland and Barrett	Ernside Shopping Centre, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 6JQ	Nature's Harvest	Nature's Harvest, Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 2WP	Glyphosate 0.9 (no MRL)
13 October 2006	Soya mince	Brazil	Holland and Barrett	High street, Arbroath, DD11 1DZ	Nature's Harvest	Nature's Harvest Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 2WP	Glyphosate 0.1 (no MRL)
30 October 2006	Unflavoured soya mince	Brazil	Holland and Barrett	Mostyn street, Llandudno, LL30 3BD	Nature's Harvest	Nature's Harvest Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 2WP	Glyphosate 0.1 (no MRL)
10 November 2006	Soya mince	Brazil	Holland and Barrett	High street, Arbroath, DD11 1DZ	Nature's Harvest	Nature's Harvest, Burton-upon- Trent, DE14 2WP	Glyphosate 1.1 (no MRL)
11 November 2006	Soya mince	The Netherlands	Holland and Barrett	Long Causeway, Peterborough, PE1 1YJ	Nature's Harvest	Nature's Harvest, Burton-upon-Trent, DE14 2WP	Glyphosate 0.1 (no MRL)
8 November 2006	Soya mince	UK	Sainsbury's	Etherstone Avenue, Long Benton, NE7 7JW	Sainsbury's	Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT	Glyphosate 0.1 (no MRL)
12 November 2006	Soya mince	Brazil	Tesco	Pasteur road, Great Yarmouth, NR31 ODW		Tesco Stores Ltd, Delamare road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire ENS 9SL	Glyphosate0.4 (No MRL)
20 November 2006	Soya mince	Brazil	Tesco	Broad street, Teddington, TW11 8RF	Tesco	Tesco Stores Ltd, Delamare road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire ENS 9SL	Glyphosate 0.3 (no MRL)
31 October 2006	Bean feast mince	UK	Wm Morrison	Newgate Park Centre, Bob Hardisty Drive, DL14 7TN	Batchelves	Campbell Grocery Ltd, PO Box 1086, Hardwick road, Kings Lynn, PC30 4FB	Glyphosate 0.2 (no MRL)

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* households and *(b)* rural households in England received Warm Front grants in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the average value of a Warm Front grant to a rural household in England was in that period. [180759]

Mr. Woolas: A total of 277,194 households in England received Warm Front grants for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.

Of these, 41,044 were classified as rural households under the criteria set out by the Office for National Statistics.

The average value of a grant to those rural households was £1,332.44.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of funding raised by the Energy Efficiency Commitment is ring-fenced for hard to heat rural houses; and what arrangements for such houses were planned under the carbon emissions reduction target obligation. [181162]

Mr. Woolas: It is open to energy suppliers, who are responsible for the costs of meeting their targets under the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) and Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), how they do so. Under CERT there will be an option for suppliers to focus a proportion of their activity on those who may occupy hard to treat homes. Suppliers may promote solid wall insulation to those on low incomes in the private sector and ground source heat pumps to those on low incomes in the private sector who are off the gas grid. Accordingly, EEC/CERT does not ring-fence money in the manner suggested. However, the Government have sought to encourage energy suppliers to target their activity at hard to treat homes. Any activity promoted in this sector will result in greater carbon savings being attributed to a measure than would otherwise be the case.

Housing: South West

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will set up the Rural Housing Challenge Fund through the Housing Corporation to build public housing in rural areas of South West England; and if he will make a statement. [182077]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Communities and Local Government is providing £8.4 billion over the three-year period 2008-11 for affordable housing. This underlines the Government's commitment to tackling difficulties faced by those unable to afford a home. Regional allocations reflect the advice of the regional assemblies (and the Mayor of London) on priorities for their areas.

In the South West, a budget of £241 million has been allocated for 2008-09, an increase of 25 per cent. on the 2007-08 budget. This includes funding for local authority Decent Homes and private sector renewal in urban and rural areas. How much of this is spent on housing in rural communities is determined by the regional assembly, in consultation with local authorities, with ministerial agreement.

As part of its preparations for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) during the summer of 2007, DEFRA asked the Housing Corporation to provide advice on the feasibility of a potential revenue funding programme to support improvements in local capacity and delivery of affordable housing across rural England. That advice will be carefully considered in decisions about departmental spending priorities over the CSR period. No decisions about the fund have yet been made. We are currently finalising the Department's overall funding package and an announcement will be made shortly.

Marine Management Organisation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what role the Marine Management Organisation will have in delivering Government commitments on *(a)* the ecosystem approach, *(b)* sustainable development and *(c)* the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment; [181508]

(2) if he will set out his objectives for the Marine Management Organisation in advance of the publication of the draft Marine Bill; [181573]

(3) if he will establish the Marine Management Organisation prior to the development of a marine policy statement. [181574]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will be operating under the marine policy statement which will set out our commitment on a range of marine policies. The importance of the ecosystem approach and ensuring sustainable development will be an integral part of this policy statement.

With regard to the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment, the MMO will be subject to the duty contained in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. In addition, we are proposing that the MMO be responsible for making byelaws to protect marine conservation zones from potentially damaging activities.

The Marine Management Organisation will act as a champion for the integrated management of our seas, contributing to sustainable development by bringing together the delivery of many of the marine functions of the UK Government. The draft Marine Bill will reflect this, and objectives will be set in advance of the new organisation being formed, but we will not be setting out our objectives for the Marine Management Organisation in advance of the publication.

The exact timing of the development of the policy statement will depend on the passage of the Marine Bill. However, we are aiming to put the statement in place as soon as possible so that we can provide a clear policy direction to the MMO.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers will be included in the draft Marine Bill for the Marine Management Organisation to reject plans for offshore wind farms producing over 100MW on the grounds of a negative environmental impact. [181605]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Noise

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish a national noise strategy. [181657]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government plan to publish a combined national noise strategy for England, covering ambient and neighbourhood noise, later this year.

Pig Meat: Import Controls

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what controls are in place on the import of pork and pork products into the UK. [182048]

Jonathan Shaw: All consignments of meat from other EU member states must have been produced in accordance with the harmonised Community rules laid down in European Community legislation. Among other things, this legislation sets out the licensing, structural and veterinary supervision requirements to be applied in production plants. The meat has to come from animals that have been subjected to anti- and post-mortem inspection to ensure they are healthy.

Meat from third countries must have been produced to standards at least equivalent to those in the EU. Meat imported from outside the EU must:

(i) come from approved third countries;

(ii) be accompanied by appropriate animal and public health certification; and

(iii) must come from EU approved plants in the exporting country.

Meat imported from third countries must enter the EU at designated border inspection posts where veterinary checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met.

Pigs

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many breeding pigs there were in England in each of the last 10 years. [182180]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The total number of pigs in the breeding herd are shown in the following table.

	(Thousand) *Pigs in breeding herd*
1998	629.9
1999	573.0
2000	502.7
2001	489.0
2002	457.9
2003	418.1
2004	424.5
2005	386.2
2006	386.1
2007	374.9

Note:
Pig breeding herd is sows and gilts in pig and suckled or dry sows for further breeding. *Source:*
June Agricultural Survey

Rural Payments Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the number of communication and press staff listed as working for the Rural Payments Agency in the Central Office of Information's White Book differs from the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 280W, on the Rural Payments Agency. [181315]

Jonathan Shaw: Hansard correctly reports that the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) employs one press officer who spends half their time on press activities.

The RPA communications team, of which the press office forms part, is also responsible for a wide range of other communications functions. These include publications, advertising, internal communication and web management. All these staff are listed in the RPA's entry in the White Book.

Swine Fever: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any updates have been made to the classical swine fever contingency plan since 2003. [182179]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: DEFRA's latest revised generic Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases, including classical swine fever, was laid before Parliament on 10 December 2007. The plan is amended annually (as required under the Animal Health Act 2002) and covers arrangements for dealing with a range of exotic animal diseases.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which local authorities have now ceased weekly collections of residual household rubbish according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Waste and Resources Action Programme across the United Kingdom; [176549]

(2) which local authorities in the United Kingdom have alternate weekly collections of household rubbish according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme; and on what date the alternate weekly collection was introduced in each case; [176768]

(3) which local authorities are undertaking pilot schemes in relation to introducing alternate weekly collections of household rubbish according to the Waste and Resources Action Programme records. [176173]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) most recent list of local authorities providing an alternate weekly collection (AWC) service is shown in the following list. Most local authorities have weekly collections, alternating collection services—one week for recyclables, one week for residual waste—but a number of scheme types exist and this includes cases where recyclables are collected every week. This list represents WRAP's best understanding at present of local authorities operating or implementing such schemes.

Any funding allocated to local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Neither DEFRA nor WRAP record the date on which individual local authorities change the frequency of waste collections.

Local authorities operating less than weekly residual waste collections[1]

Alnwick District Council
Amber Valley
Ashfield District Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council[2]
Babergh District Council
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
Blackpool Borough Council
Blyth Valley Borough Council

Boston Borough Council
Braintree District Council
Breckland District Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Bristol City Council
Broadland District Council
Bromsgrove District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Canterbury City Council
Carlisle City Council
Castle Morpeth Borough Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Chiltern District Council
Chorley Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Corby Borough Council
Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Daventry District Council
Derby City Council
Derwentside District Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East Hampshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Epping Borough Council
Erewash Borough Council
Exeter City Council
Fenland District Council
Forest Heath District Council
Fylde Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Harborough District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Kennet District Council
Kettering Borough Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Lancaster City Council
Lichfield District Council
Lincoln City Council
London Borough of Harrow
Macclesfield Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Melton Borough Council
Mendip District Council
Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Mole Valley District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North Devon District Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Norfolk District Council
North Shropshire District Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Northampton Borough Council
Nottingham City Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council[2]
Oswestry Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Pendle Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Preston Borough Council
Purbeck District Council
Reading Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Rochdale MBC
Rochford District Council
Rossendale Borough Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames[2]
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rushmoor Borough Council[2]
Ryedale District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sefton MBC
Shepway District Council
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council
South Buckinghamshire District Council[2]
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Hams District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Norfolk District Council
South Northamptonshire Council
South Ribble Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
South Somerset District Council
South Staffordshire District Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council[2]
Swale Borough Council
Swindon Borough Council

Tamworth Borough Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Telford and Wrekin Borough Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Tonbridge and Mailing Borough Council
Torbay Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Tynedale District Council
Uttlesford District Council
Vale Royal Borough Council
Wansbeck District Council
Waveney District Council
Waverley Borough Council
Wealden District Council
Wellingborough Borough Council
West Lancashire District Council
West Wiltshire District Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Winchester City Council
Wirral MBC
Woking Borough Council
Worcester City Council
Wycombe District Council
Wyre Borough Council
Wyre Forest District Council
York City Council

[1] Not all schemes are borough wide.

[2] Trial

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the destination was of garden waste collected from residents' homes by each waste collection authority in Hampshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [176883]

Joan Ruddock: All local authorities report the destination of their collected municipal waste to WasteDataFlow. The table shows the reported destinations of green waste or other compostable waste (both categories will include waste from gardens) sent for composting by Hampshire county council and its waste collection authorities during January to March 2007.

The destination list in WasteDataFlow that authorities can report against is populated by the Environment Agency's lists of licensed sites. These are identified as the location (by postcode) along with the waste processor that owns the site. Some material will go to sites which are exempt from a waste management licence. These are identified as 'Other/exempt' in the list. In these cases, further details on the location of destination sites are not recorded.

Municipal green waste and other compostable waste by destination as reported by Hampshire county council and its waste collection authorities (January to March 2006-07)

Authority	*Destination*	*Tonnage sent*	*Material type*
Winchester City Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd RG25 2NS	357	Green waste only
Test Valley Borough Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd, SO20 6BU	377	Green waste only
Rushmoor Borough Council	Other/exempt	129	Green waste only
New Forest District Council	Eco Composting Limited, BH23 6BG	282	Green waste only
Havant Borough Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd, PO16 8TR	23	Green waste only
Hart District Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd—RG25 2NS	313	Green waste only
Gosport Borough Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd, PO16 8TR	42	Green waste only
Fareham Borough Council	Other/exempt	1,155	Green waste only
Eastleigh Borough Council	Other/exempt	374	Green waste only
Eastleigh Borough Council	Other/exempt	24	Other compostable waste
East Hampshire District Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd—RG25 2NS	290	Green waste only
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd—RG25 2NS	61	Green waste only
Hampshire County Council	Other/exempt	2,283	Green waste only
Hampshire County Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd, PO16 8TR	1,855	Green waste only
Hampshire County Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd, SO20 6BU	2,204	Green waste only
Hampshire County Council	Onyx (Hampshire) Ltd—RG25 2NS	2,346	Green waste only

Source:
WasteDataFlow (Question 19)

Wastes

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the percentage of waste generated in the UK by *(a)* business and *(b)* households in each of the last five years; and what his future projections are of these figures for the next five years. [173671]

Joan Ruddock: Waste management is a devolved matter, so the following data are for England only.

The Environment Agency's 2002-03 commercial and industrial waste survey is the most comprehensive and up-to-date evidence on the sources, quantities and management of commercial and industrial waste in England. No comparable data are available for other years.

The total commercial and industrial waste arisings in 2002-03 (including the hazardous waste stream) was estimated at 67.9 million tonnes, comprising 37.6 million tonnes from industrial sources (14 per cent. of total waste arisings) and 30.3 million tonnes from commercial sources (11 per cent. of total waste arisings).

Household waste arisings made up a total of 10 per cent. of the total waste arisings in 2002-03. Since total waste arisings in other years is not known, percentage figures for these years cannot be provided.

Forecasts of future waste arisings, in both the household and business sectors in England, are set out in Annex A (Appendix 1) of the Waste Strategy for England 2007, copies of which are available from the Library of the House. Figures take account of a variety of scenarios using a range of assumptions to reflect possible demographic, economic and lifestyle changes that will influence waste arisings—quite apart from the influence of specific policies.

Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average water bill in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each water company area was for a household with (i) a single person, (ii) a family of three on a meter and (iii) a family of five on a meter in the latest period for which figures are available. [176527]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales and sets price limits for each water company at price reviews.

Figures are available on the Ofwat website at:

www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/water_sewerage_bills07-08.pdf/$FILE/water_sewerage_bills07-08.pdf

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laboratories *(a)* were licensed and *(b)* lost their licence to perform tests on animals in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [179493]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Certificates of designation may be revoked for a variety of reasons, such as the closure of the establishment, and revocation is usually at the request of the certificate holder. Issues of non-compliance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, or their conditions of issue, were identified at two establishments prior to the return of their certificates for revocation since 2003.

Scientific procedures establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

	Certificates of designation in force at 31 December	*New certificates of designation issued during the year*	*Certificates of designation revoked during the year*
2003	228	7	10
2004	223	2	4
2005	215	3	10
2006	212	2	6
2007	199	2	15

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department employs to ensure that licences to conduct scientific experiments on animals are only granted in circumstances where no viable alternative exists; and what steps it takes to ensure that licences are not granted unnecessarily to different scientists simultaneously. [180347]

Meg Hillier: Under section 5(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, a project licence cannot be granted if the purpose of the programme could be achieved satisfactorily by the use of a reasonably practicable non-animal method. Applicants for project licences are, therefore, required to explain why animals have to be used and a key element of the assessment of licence applications by Home Office inspectors focuses on ensuring that the use of animals is essential. In considering this issue, inspectors have access to a wide range of expertise and sources of relevant information and fully explore potential alternative methods in discussion with applicants.

The avoidance of unnecessary duplication of animal use is another key consideration in the assessment of applications and all reasonable steps are taken to prevent it. However, the replication of experiments by more than one research group is not necessarily prohibited. The scientific method demands that research findings can be corroborated by the same or different research groups to establish the validity of the results.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questionnaires for asylum seekers under the Legacy Casework Programme have been *(a)* issued, *(b)* completed and returned and *(c)* returned incomplete since the programme began; and if she will make a statement. [178987]

Mr. Byrne: There have been nearly 9,600 questionnaires issued since May 2007 and around 8,400 of these have been completed.

The questionnaire is only for applicants whose cases are among the older, unresolved ones that are not being considered by our teams in regional offices around the country.

Not all applicants will receive a questionnaire. Applicants will only be sent a questionnaire if we think we need more up-to-date information on the applicant's case before we review it. If the application is a straightforward one, or the applicant has recently been in touch with us, we will not need to send a questionnaire.

In her recent update to the Home Affairs Committee on 17 December 2007, Lin Homer (chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency) gave an undertaking to provide further updates to the Committee every six months.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projections she has made of the likely percentage of asylum seekers who will be recognised as refugees and granted asylum as an initial decision in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [173029]

Mr. Byrne: Projections of the likely percentage of asylum seekers who will be recognised as refugees and granted asylum at initial decision in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 are not available. Every asylum application is considered on its individual merits.

Crime: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* criminal damage and *(c)* drug related offences have been recorded in London since 2001. [178075]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Selected offences recorded by the police in London[1]

	Violence against the person	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*
2001-02	161,944	148,168	[2]26,673
2002-03	179,710	144,739	34,101
2003-04	187,036	147,784	33,076
2004-05	202,914	135,995	33,887
2005-06	198,204	122,684	43,704
2006-07	183,321	114,248	54,749

[1] Includes offences recorded by the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police Service.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced disclosure charges the Criminal Records Bureau has levied against each (i) local authority, (ii) local education authority, (iii) local health board and primary care trust and (iv) NHS trust in England and Wales in each year for which figures are available. [179283]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not collate this information in the format requested.

Departmental Land

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what land surplus to her Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168847]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is not currently selling or leasing land. It has however declared the former RAF Coltishall (260 hectares) surplus to its requirements and will shortly transfer it to the Ministry of Justice. Sale of a very minor part of the former airfield has been agreed with an adjoining owner.

Departmental Telephone Service

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179202]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 521 0410	Passport advice line	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport advice line (Text Phone Service)	Minicom
0870 243 4477	Passport inquiries for High Street Partners	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport Complaints	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 125 1256	Siemens Business Services Query Letters	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh Language Line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicom
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	TOGETHER (advice line for practitioners on tackling antisocial behaviour).	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to Jacqui Smith	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Lord West	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrne	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
0870 336 9036	Contact Private Office to Meg Hillier	Fax
0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Team	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' Special Advisers	Fax
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Fax
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Fax
0870 243 0100	Security Industry Authority	Phone
0845 010 6677	Employers1 Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	BIA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Enquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals -recorded message only)	Phone

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0845 300 2002	Independent Police Complaints Commission	Phone
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau General Inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau Registration Information Line	Phone
0845 602 1739	Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Enquiry Bureau	Phone
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 010 5200	Nationality telephone enquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	BIA Work Permits Literature Order Line	Phone
0845 600 0914	Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0870 241 6523	Enquiries about the work of the BIA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of her Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166550]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Contact centre	*Purpose*	*Monitoring/mechanisms*	*Number of staff*
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire)	IPS—Call arrangements are for customer inquiries and appointment bookings—also e-mail inquiries such as progress chasers, customer complaints and requests for passport application packs. Services provided by Teleperformance.	Performance is monitored against contractual KPI and SLAs. Meetings take place with the supplier monthly to ensure continuous service improvement.	This is seasonal and varies on a month to month basis. In October 2007 full-time equivalent staff employed on the IPS account was 234.
Bangor (Northern Ireland)	IPS—As above.	As above.	Varies on a month to month basis. Total number of staff is included in the figure above.
Bristol	IPS—As above.	As above.	Varies on a month to month basis. Total number of staff is included in the figure above.
Immigration Inquiry Bureau (IEB)	BIA—Deals with inquiries from the public relating to general immigration issues, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for immigration application forms.	Performance is measured on calls answered against demand on a daily basis and reports its management information weekly to senior managers. This in turn is included in regular information on performance given to managers.	IEB employs a total of 180 staff, including part-time members.
Sheffield Contact Centre	BIA—Deals with inquiries on all work permit schemes and programmes and provides advice to employers on recruiting non UK nationals.	1 per cent. of all calls are monitored for quality purposes.	55 staff
Liverpool Contact Centre	BIA—Deals with general inquiries about citizenship and right of abode, requests for progress on individual cases and requests for application forms.	All call centres are measured on the number of calls answered against demand on a daily, weekly, monthly basis and on the quality of service provided. 1 per cent. of all calls are monitored for quality purposes.	60 staff
Evidence and Inquiry Unit	BIA—Deals with a range of inquiries from other Crown agencies.	There is a facility to record all calls and also reports weekly and monthly on a number of quality fronts including one to one sessions with staff and dealing with complaints if received.	As of 20 November there were a total of 55 staff.
MPs Hotline	BIA—Deals with MP's, House of Lords, European Parliament and members of the Scottish Parliament and devolved assemblies. Deals with a range of inquiries.	Performance is measured on calls answered against demand on a daily basis and reports its management info weekly to senior managers. MPs and their constituency offices provide regular feedback on the service provided by the Hotline.	As of 19 November the MPs Hotline employs 15 staff.

Contact centre	*Purpose*	*Monitoring/mechanisms*	*Number of staff*
CRB Contact Centre	Deals with the receipt of telephone calls from applicants, organisations, registered bodies (through whom applicants submit their applications) and other third parties. Service provided by Capita Business Services.	This is monitored through contractual service levels. These service levels are reported against on a monthly and quarterly basis.	Year 2003: 81
			Year 2004: 87
			Year 2005: 92
			Year 2006: 99
			Year 2007: 79
Adelphi Service Centre	Deals with invoice payments, expense payments, Adelphi password resets and general assistance.	This is monitored through contractual service levels key performance indicators. These service levels are reported against on a monthly basis.	16 staff
Home Office public switchboard	The Home Office public switchboard deals with non-specific callers (i.e. those who do not have a name/extension number). They either deal with the query or request for a publication direct; put the caller through to whichever part of the office can deal with their query; or, if they have called the HO in error, advise them which Department/agency they should contact.	Performance data are maintained on an ongoing basis. Calls are monitored using a computer system which is linked to a wall board showing real time performance throughout the day (number of calls received, number of calls answered, calls in queue, agents logged on, agents on call and agents ready to take calls). The information stored on this system indicates performance in terms of how many calls are answered and how quickly they are answered over a specific time period.	3 to 4 full-time staff. This can be extended to additional staff at times of peak load.

Deportation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have been deported to *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Nigeria, *(c)* Vietnam and *(d)* China in each of the last five years. [164811]

Mr. Byrne: On 14 June the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent provisional information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the chief executive reported that 2,784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07.

Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. Copies of this are available in the Library of the House.

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Border and Immigration Agency is putting in place new systems to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals resident in the United Kingdom the Government expect to be required to hold a biometric immigration document by *(a)* January 2009, *(b)* January 2010 and *(c)* January 2011. [181604]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Borders Act 2007 confirms the introduction of ID cards for foreign nationals from 2008. The programme will first pressure test the technology, before cards are issued later this year.

We will publish our roll out strategy shortly and this will be based on improved efficiency and will tackle high risk groups first. We will publish details of these groups in the roll out strategy.

Entry Clearances: Doctors

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many doctors were awarded highly skilled migrant status *(a)* in the 12 months before 5 February 2007 and *(b)* since that date. [181167]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is as follows and relates to those who declared their occupation as doctor when applying.

	Number
6 February 2006 to 5 February 2007	6,875
6 February 2007 to 31 December 2007	2,095
Total	8,970

Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Skilled Workers

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many highly skilled migrant visas have been issued since April 2006, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* skill. [180643]

Mr. Byrne: The following table sets out the number of highly skilled migrant programme applications by country of origin. We are unable to answer part *(b)* of the question, as this information is not asked on the application form.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

HSMP applications granted between 1 April 2006 and 31 December 2007

Country of origin	*Total*
Afghanistan	5
Albania	10
Algeria	15
American Samoa	[1]—
Antigua and Barbuda	[1]—
Argentina	25
Armenia	25
Australia	5,050
Azerbaijan	65
Bahamas	5
Bahrain	5
Bangladesh	520
Barbados	40
Belarus	30
Belize	[1]—
Benin	[1]—
Bolivia	5
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5
Botswana	10
Brazil	155
Brit Nat Overseas	35
Brunei	5
Bulgaria	40
Burkina Faso	[1]—
Cameroon	55
Canada	530
Chile	10
China	1,250
Colombia	95
Congo	[1]—
Congo (Democratic Rep of)	[1]—
Croatia	30
Dominica	5
Dominican Republic	5
Ecuador	5
Egypt	300
El Salvador	5
Eritrea	5
Ethiopia	30
Fiji	5
Gabon	[1]—
Gambia	15
Georgia	15
Ghana	225
Grenada	5
Guatemala	[1]—
Guyana	10
Haiti	[1]—
Honduras	[1]—
Hong Kong (British)	15
Hong Kong (Chinese)	10
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	[1]—
India	18,285
Indonesia	45
Iran	220
Iraq	55
Israel	130
Jamaica	655
Japan	90
Jordan	105
Kazakhstan	30
Kenya	235
Korea North (Democratic Peoples Rep of)	5
Korea South (Rep of Korea)	85
Kuwait	5
Kyrgyzstan	15
Lebanon	55
Libya	85
Macedonia	5
Malawi	20
Malaysia	785
Maldives	5
Mali	[1]
Mauritania	20
Mauritius	115
Mexico	65
Moldova (Rep of)	25
Mongolia	5
Montenegro	[1]—
Morocco	10
Mozambique	5
Myanmar	135
Namibia	10
Nepal	310
New Caledonia	[1]—
New Zealand	2,530
Nicaragua	[1]—
Niger	5
Nigeria	3,555
Northern Cyprus	[1]—
Oman	5
Pakistan	4,220
Palestine	30
Papua New Guinea	[1]—
Peru	25
Philippines	60
Romania	40
Russian Federation	610
Rwanda	[1]—
Saudi Arabia	15
Senegal	5
Serbia	30

HSMP applications granted between 1 April 2006 and 31 December 2007

Country of origin	*Total*
Seychelles	[1]—
Sierra Leone	20
Singapore	190
Slovakia	[1]—
South Africa	2,175
Sri Lanka	1,070
St. Lucia	5
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	5
Sudan	70
Swaziland	5
Syria (Arab Rep)	105
Taiwan Province of China	65
Tajikistan	[1]—
Tanzania (United Rep of)	25
Thailand	25
Tonga	[1]—
Trinidad and Tobago	175
Tunisia	10
Turkey	255
Turkmenistan	5
Uganda	85
Ukraine	220
United States of America	1,495
Unknown	55
Uruguay	5
Uzbekistan	30
Venezuela	30
Vietnam	10
Yemen	5
Yugoslavia	10
Zambia	50
Zimbabwe	240
Total	47,290

[1] indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases enforcement action to remove was successfully carried out in respect of non-UK citizens who were *(a)* illegal entrants and *(b)* overstayers in each year since 1997. [177472]

Mr. Byrne: Published information on persons removed as a result of enforcement action is broken down by the type of enforcement action initiated. Enforcement action is broken down into three main categories: illegal entry action, administrative removal action and deportations.

Section 33(1) of the 1971 Act, as amended by the 1996 Act, defines an illegal entrant as a person:

(a) unlawfully entering or seeking to enter in breach of a deportation order or of the immigration laws, or

(b) entering or seeking to enter by means which include deception by another person, and includes a person who has so entered.

An overstayer is a person who stays beyond the time limited/specified/given by his/her leave and is liable to administrative removal under section 10. Prior to 2000, such persons were liable to deportation as distinct from administrative removal.

The breakdown has not been available since 2003, but for information prior to 2004, it has been published in the Command Paper Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom.

Copies of this publication and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Immigration

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's average response time to representations from hon. and right hon. Members on immigration cases has been in each month since January 2006. [181229]

Mr. Byrne: In 2006 letters from hon. Members were answered within an average of 23.56 working days.

In 2007 (January to May) letters from hon. and right hon. Members were answered within an average of 16.83 working days. Figures for the average number of days to respond to a letter from June 2007 are not currently available.

Immigration: Work Permits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for work permits were *(a)* initially refused and *(b)* subsequently granted on appeal as a percentage of total appeals in each of the last five years. [178538]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Work permit individual and group applications refused and successful on review between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007

	Refused	*Total appeals on review*	*Successful on review*	*Successful (Percentage)*
2003	19,750	8,650	2,955	34
2004	28,755	5,360	565	11
2005	20,855	6,615	820	12
2006	17,595	5,590	760	14
2007	22,970	7,920	665	8
Total	109,925	34,135	5,765	17

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* existing and *(b)* planned measures will be used to implement the Prime Minister's undertaking to deport newcomers to the UK who are caught (i) selling drugs or (ii) using guns; whether this policy will apply to all foreign nationals convicted of drugs and firearms offences; and if she will make a statement. [163777]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to pursuing the deportation of foreign nationals convicted of using firearms and selling drugs.

Deportation Orders in such cases are already made under powers in Section 3(5) of the Immigration Act 1971. The automatic deportation provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007 will bring greater certainty and clarify to the deportation process. Foreign nationals imprisoned for serious crimes will know, from the point of sentence, that they will be deported save where one of a narrow list of exceptions applies.

Prisoners: Deportation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners serving sentences have been notified that they are not at risk of deportation; and of those how many remain at risk of removal. [174903]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost.

In a statement to the House on 19 July 2006 I explained that there would be a presumption for deportation for those foreign nationals that meet the criteria. The automatic deportation provisions contained in the UK Borders Act 2007 have further strengthened the link between criminality and deportation. Foreign nationals not liable to deportation are considered for enforcement action on a case by case basis.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has allocated any resources to be spent via the regional development agencies' single pot in 2007-08. [179810]

Mr. Byrne: No resources have been allocated in 2007-08.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal Authority

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish the guidance given to the Coal Authority on the *(a)* licensing and *(b)* commercial exploitation of its data. [180945]

Malcolm Wicks: The Coal Authority's use of its data is governed by its duties and responsibilities under the Coal Industry Act 1994 and other relevant statutes and regulations.

Energy: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent discussions he has had with Ministers at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the energy needs of rural households; [180760]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assist rural communities without access to the mains gas network; [180762]

(3) what steps he is taking to assist rural households living in fuel poverty that are not connected to the mains gas network; [180763]

(4) what steps his Department is taking to assist households not connected to the mains gas network which have high energy bills. [180764]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR's Design and Demonstration Unit has developed a model under which deprived communities without access to mains gas and that meet certain criteria can be connected to the network, using existing funding. A number of communities have been connected using the model. In partnership with the regional development agencies in north-east England and Yorkshire and Humberside, we are co-funding demonstration projects delivered by Community Energy Solutions, a community interest company that will provide cost-effective energy to 40 communities. These projects will use mains gas and renewable technologies as appropriate, will benefit both urban and rural communities and are designed to be replicable elsewhere. Under the new gas distribution price control, Ofgem, with our support, has incentivised the gas distribution network companies to provide mains gas connections to deprived communities. We expect this to result in many thousands of customers gaining access to mains gas during 2008 to 2013.

Ministers from DEFRA and BERR have regular discussions on a range of energy issues, including the needs of rural households.

Nuclear Power Stations: Coastal Areas

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 975W, on nuclear power stations: coastal areas, if he will place in the Library copies of the research report on flood threat to nuclear plants; and what the web addresses are of each document. [180984]

Malcolm Wicks: The report "Flooding hazard from extreme sea levels" was commissioned by Nuclear Electric plc and any request for the report should be addressed to that company's successors, British Energy plc and Magnox Electric plc. I am not aware that there is a web address for the document.

Overseas Loans: Developing Countries

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's record management practice is on keeping information relating to contracts for loans made to developing countries, with particular reference to the *(a)* length of time for which information is retained and *(b)* the information which is retained. [180304]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's current policy is to retain all documentary information in its possession in relation to transactions which it has supported, for a period of up to seven years after the final repayment date of the loan or contract has been received. Where there has been a payment default and ECGD has paid a claim, the information would be held for up to seven years after the date on which ECGD either makes its final recovery in respect of the claim which it has paid or decides to abandon recovery action.

Post Offices

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what means his Department defines *(a)* rural, *(b)* deprived urban and *(c)* remote communities in the minimum access criteria for the Post Office Network Change Programme. [181471]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network in May 2007 set out the definitions supporting the minimum access criteria for the post office network. The definition of a rural area is a settlement of less than 10,000 inhabitants. Deprived urban areas are defined as the most deprived 15 per cent. of super output areas in England, 15 per cent. of data zones in Scotland, and 30 per cent. of super output areas in Wales and Northern Ireland to take account of the proportional spread of disadvantaged areas across the UK.

There is no departmental definition of a remote area as no access criteria relates solely to 'remote' areas. Alongside the Government's national access criteria, is the criterion that 95 per cent. of the population in every postcode district should be within six miles of a post office service. Implicit in this criterion is a safeguard for people in remote areas who might otherwise not have been assured of reasonable accessibility to services under nationally-applied criteria alone.

Post Offices: Closures

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the number of post offices to be closed *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Leicestershire in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [181278]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response in May 2007 to the national public consultation on the post office network committed funding support for strategic changes to the network with up to 2,500 compensated closures nationally. Closures under the network change programme began this month and the programme is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. I understand that final decisions on the closure proposals in the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland area plan are scheduled to be announced by Post Office Ltd. on 1 February.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68, on post office closures, (1) if he will give details of the background costs taken into account when deciding whether a post office is profitable; [181970]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings to Post Office Ltd. arising from the closure of 2,500 post offices in the first three years after the closures have taken place. [182454]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the effect on Royal Mail's revenue of the Post Office's planned programme of branch closures. [182181]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Post Offices: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the change in the frequency of personal travel and car usage in rural areas resulting from the closure of rural post offices. [180794]

Malcolm Wicks: No such assessment has been made by my Department. But, in developing its proposals for post office closures and new outreach service points, Post Office Ltd. takes into account the Government's access criteria and wider factors relating to accessibility of post office services, including availability of public transport.

Post Offices: Urban Areas

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what minimum number of urban Post Office branches would be required to ensure 95 per cent. of the total urban population lived within one mile of a Post Office branch. [182066]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Power Failures: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with energy suppliers on reducing the number of power outages in Shropshire. [180614]

Malcolm Wicks: An official from my Department will contact the network operators serving Shropshire and I will confirm his findings in correspondence.

Radioactive Wastes: Transport

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions radioactive waste material was moved from each nuclear site by *(a)* rail and *(b)* other means in each of the last five years. [180479]

Malcolm Wicks: The following figures record the notifications of intended movements of spent nuclear fuel, submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003, since the regulations entered into force on 22 September 2003. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for defence nuclear sites.

	September 2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*January 2007-08*
Irradiated fuel by road					
Hinkley Point	90	138	55	37	16
Dungeness	63	137	100	122	71
Wylfa	87	155	151	145	76
Oldbury	52	79	20	46	33
Bradwell	48	85	83	40	0
Sizewell	52	88	62	66	41
Chapelcross	23	1	117	0	0
Hunterston	25	41	44	34	3
Torness	21	27	32	29	24
Heysham	48	49	64	87	56
Hartlepool	15	32	33	25	17
Winfrith	47	38	0	0	0
Irradiated fuel by rail[1]					
	405	852	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hunterston	—	—	45	41	4
Torness	—	—	42	39	32
Heysham	—	—	59	52	38
Hartlepool	—	—	36	28	22
Hinkley Point	—	—	52	39	21
Dungeness	—	—	68	85	50
Wylfa	—	—	135	131	52
Oldbury	—	—	14	42	33
Bradwell	—	—	57	33	0
Sizewell	—	—	37	67	32
Waste (not irradiated fuel)					
Drigg (to Sellafield)	—	—	210	249	172

[1] Since 2005-06, rail movement data have been allocated against specific sites

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library the results of the work of Dr. Tim Stone on nuclear new build decommissioning and long-term waste management cost allocation. [181021]

Malcolm Wicks: Dr. Stone was appointed in January 2007 to act as advisor to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Chief Secretary of the Treasury on financing the costs of decommissioning, waste management and disposal for new nuclear power stations.

Dr. Stone's work has informed the clauses on nuclear waste management and decommissioning in the Energy Bill which was introduced into Parliament on 10 January 2008. Draft guidance, to underpin the Bill clauses, will be published for consultation in February/March of this year.

Regional Government: Brussels

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1343-44W, on regional government: Brussels, how many staff are employed in each office. [179659]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

Details of staff employed by regional offices in Brussels are tabled as follows.

In most cases the offices are funded by a combination of regional and sub-regional partners, including regional development agencies, local authorities and regional assemblies.

Title of office	*Number of staff*[1]	*Vacancies*[1]
East of England Brussels office	[2]5.5	—
England's East Midlands European office	4	1
London European office	7	—
North East England in Europe	4	1
North West Brussels office	2	—
South East England Brussels office	2	—
South West UK Brussels office	6	—
West Midlands in Europe office	7	1
Yorkshire in Europe	4	—

[1] Position at January 2008

[2] Full-time equivalent numbers, seven staff in total employed including part-time staff.

HEALTH

Departmental Managers

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value is of the remuneration package, excluding bonuses, of the director general of the commercial directorate of his Department. [162383]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The total value of the remuneration package on appointment for Mr. Wheeler, director general, commercial directorate was a salary in the range of £185,000 to £190,000, a one-off relocation package of up to £35,000 and contributions to accommodation in the United Kingdom of £8,400 a month. Mr. Wheeler is subsequently able to claim for up to two business class flights to the United States each year. Mr. Wheeler is a member of the civil service pension scheme.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179845]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies have not centrally produced any posters or displays for the specific use of displaying the names and photographs of Ministers in its buildings.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the NHS and *(c)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179201]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's main public facing telephone inquiry service, the Customer Service Centre, has a geographic number (020 7210 4850). The Department also uses a Government wide switchboard service for contact with Richmond House (020 7210 3000). There are individual switchboard services for the Department's main buildings and these have geographic telephone numbers.

The Department's Executive Agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency also have geographic numbers.

The Department has a healthy start scheme (formerly known as the welfare foods helpline), a service operated under contract to provide assistance to individual members of the public with inquiries about welfare foods e.g. milk tokens. The number for members of the public is 0845 607 6823. The text phone (for minicom users) is 0845 601 7698. The numbers for commercial providers are 08707 203063/201688. The nursery milk reimbursement unit helpline provides information to nurseries and other early years providers. This number is 08707 203055. These telephone numbers will be reviewed as part of the contract review in 2008.

The Department does not collect information on the telephone numbers used by local national health service organisations and general practitioner practices. Under the NHS next stage review options are being considered in adopting a 3-digit number as a single point of access to NHS urgent care.

The NHS Direct telephone advice service, which currently operates on 0845 4647, will shortly have to change its number. The Department has had a preliminary discussion with Ofcom about the possibility of securing a 3-digit number for NHS Direct.

The Department has 25 arms length bodies and a number of national programmes e.g. NHS Employers. Information about telephone services for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The Department also grants funds a wide range of voluntary and charitable organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations include telephone helplines as part of their services. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to identify individual projects with telephones services and whether geographic telephone numbers are used.

Members: Correspondence

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham of 17 July to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services requesting a meeting to discuss the charging regime for multiple sclerosis treatment centres. [175219]

Mr. Bradshaw: I would like to apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letter. Advice is currently being considered and a reply will be sent out shortly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bedfordshire Citizen Partnership: Fraud

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the report on the fraud investigation into Bedfordshire Citizen Partnership will be available; and if she will make a statement. [181064]

John Healey: The Citizens Services Partnership (CSP) Joint Authority Scrutiny Task Group was formed to oversee the findings of the fraud investigation. This is comprised of members from Mid Bedfordshire district council, South Bedfordshire district council and Bedfordshire county council. The fraud investigation is currently continuing and the Task Group is awaiting the receipt of a further general update from Bedfordshire police, covering in particular the outcome of its discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Audit Commission. The Task Group is also awaiting the receipt of a report from the Assistant Director (Audit and Risk Management) at Bedfordshire county council, which presents a summary of the previous four Internal Audit reports regarding the CSP, in terms of what recommendations remain outstanding regarding the governance arrangements and probity of the Partnership and what, if any, changes had taken place at Bedfordshire county council to address weaknesses identified.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of council tax receipts was in each Government office region in England in each year since 1997-98.[1] [182084]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of the council tax collected in each Government office region in England in each year since 1997-98 are shown in the following table. The figures are shown in £000 and are the amount collected within the year, irrespective of the year to which the money relates. The figures include both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years but exclude amounts funded by council tax benefit.

£000

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	449	488	520	555	593	648	709	755	793	828
North West	1,310	1,424	1,519	1,623	1,733	1,860	2,034	2,136	2,235	2,349
Yorkshire and the Humber	781	949	1,014	1,087	1,171	1,277	1,415	1,512	1,595	1,668
East Midlands	765	860	935	1,013	1,087	1,213	1,334	1,433	1,502	1,575
West Midlands	940	1,027	1,113	1,198	1,298	1,421	1,573	1,662	1,743	1,813
East of England	1,026	1,190	1,306	1,427	1,542	1,722	1,977	2,122	2,225	2,345
London	1,386	1,486	1,616	1,767	1,944	2,099	2,448	2,617	2,771	2,888
South East	1,583	1,926	2,092	2,260	2,435	2,696	3,102	3,329	3,506	3,691
South West	905	1,109	1,203	1,312	1,406	1,576	1,801	1,942	2,048	2,158
Total	9,146	10,459	11,318	12,242	13,208	14,511	16,392	17,508	18,419	19,315

Council Tax: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1306W, on council tax: standards, for which datasets, used to calculate best value performance indicators but not required for either the National Indicator set or local indicators, the data will continue to be collected. [182165]

John Healey: We are working with other Government Departments to identify those data collections which are to be discontinued, in line with the commitment made in the Local Government White Paper to limit data collection to that which is necessary for reasons such as financial management and policy development and the 30 per cent. target for reduction in data burdens announced on 9 October 2007 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1306W, on council tax: standards, for what reasons the performance data collected from local authorities through final quarterly returns will not be included in the National Indicator set. [182166]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1306W.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultancy contracts her Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181889]

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[1] *[Official Report, 23 April 2008; Vol. 474, c. 9MC.]*

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1796, given to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins). Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179009]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has one 0845 number to provide information to home owners in relation to energy performance certificates (0845 365 2468). This service is operated by a third party on the Department's behalf. There are no other 0845 or similar numbers used by the Department or related public bodies.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much her Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of her Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181527]

(2) how many overseas visits by officials in her Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181611]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) were created following the machinery of government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002, respectively.

The following table sets out the total annual departmental costs of overseas and UK travel and subsistence (for both civil servants and Ministers) for CLG and the former ODPM (excluding the Government offices). Expenditure figures prior to 2002-03 are not available and the detailed breakdown of overseas visits information could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

The total cost of travel and subsistence represents in each year approximately 2 per cent. of the central Department's overall near cash administration expenditure.

	ODPM				*CLG*
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
UK travel and subsistence	2,500,200	2,893,167	2,976,065	2,636,968	2,163,827
Overseas travel and subsistence	251,162	241,014	245,360	377,623	104,722
Total	2,751,362	3,134,181	3,221,425	3,014,591	2,268,549

Fire Services: Pensions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her reasons were for replacing departmental Guidance 2004 (FSC 30/2004) on the ill-health retirement provision in the firefighters pension scheme with CLG Revised Guidance 2006 (FPS Circular 11/2006); and if she will make a statement. [182051]

Mr. Dhanda: The 2006 Guidance reminded fire and rescue authorities informally that the test for eligibility for an ill-health pension is permanent disablement for firefighting and for performing other duties appropriate to the role. It was issued because it was clear that some authorities were still applying the pre-September 2004 test which was limited to permanent disablement for firefighting.

Floods: Fire Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is given to fire authorities on the assistance which should be given to householders who have experienced flooding. [182292]

Mr. Dhanda: Individual fire and rescue services provide advice on the steps which need to be taken by the householder once firefighters have left an incident, usually in the form of a leaflet, with the information also available online.

No central guidance is issued to fire and rescue authorities on the form that such advice should take.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the proposed new Homes and Communities Agency will have to enter private property and land. [171710]

Caroline Flint: Having given at least 28 days notice, the Homes and Communities Agency will be able to enter land it wishes to acquire, or regarding which compensation is to be determined, at a reasonable time, in order to estimate its value or survey it.

These powers are modelled on the existing powers of the Urban Regeneration Agency, which will be dissolved once the Homes and Communities Agency is established.

Homesale Network

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the minutes of the Home Sale Network meeting of 9 November. [178308]

Caroline Flint: The Home Sale Network conference of 9 November was not a Department of Communities and Local Government event.

Housing: Contamination

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she has been informed of any cases where residential houses have been built on contaminated land before such land has been signed off by an environmental health officer; [182210]

(2) what consideration has been given to amending planning policy statements so that houses may not be built on contaminated land that has not been signed off by an environmental health officer. [182211]

Caroline Flint: There have been cases where the remediation of contaminated land was not addressed appropriately prior to redevelopment. This is why the Government published new planning policy on land remediation in 2004. The policy, set out in Planning Policy Statement 23: "Planning and Pollution Control" (PPS23) and supporting annexe, expects a local planning authority in granting planning permission for new development to be satisfied that the proposed development is appropriate, having regard to the information available to it about the contamination and the proposed remediation measures and standards. PPS23 makes it clear that the developer is responsible for ensuring appropriate, competent professional advice is available to carry out investigations of land potentially affected by contamination, assessment of risk and the design and execution of remediation works, including verification of their effectiveness. The local planning authority is entitled to rely on that advice or to challenge it on the basis of similarly-qualified expert advice accessible to it in-house or externally. In all cases the standard of remediation to be achieved through the granting of planning permission for a new development is the removal of unacceptable risk and making the site suitable for its new use.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the new planning policy statement on climate change will *(a)* allow local authorities to continue to implement the Merton Rule and *(b)* require that a minimum proportion of all new developments' energy needs should come from on-site renewables. [182089]

Caroline Flint: The new planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change will boost the use of local renewable and low carbon energy in new development. The PPS sets out our 'Merton-Plus' approach. It expects all local planning authorities to have a council-wide target (like existing Merton rules) and, additionally, tailored targets for sites where there is greater potential for using decentralised energy to supply new development. These targets should be flexible enough to consider community schemes (for example, wind turbines or CHP schemes serving more than one site) as well as building specific technologies.

Councils could still set an on-site target in their Development Plan Document (DPD) provided they can show this is the only local energy option and there are no other options than on-site. In practice, we think there are unlikely to be many situations like this. We wouldn't rule out on-site renewables targets in DPDs provided it is clear that the DPD policy/target will be applied flexibly and will allow carbon savings from local energy supplies to be considered and count towards it.

Housing: Sales

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were *(a)* placed on sale and *(b)* sold through (i) Social HomeBuy, (ii) New Build HomeBuy, (iii) Open Market HomeBuy and (iv) the First Time Buyers Initiative in each region in each of the last five years. [170352]

Caroline Flint: The HomeBuy scheme, including the First Time Buyers Initiative, commenced on 1 April 2006. In general it is not possible to provide data on the number of homes placed on sale.

(i) For Social HomeBuy, some participating landlords are offering the scheme widely across their stock. Others are targeting specific estates, locations or local authority areas. We estimate that the pilot scheme will be available by the end of this year across 5 per cent. of social stock.

(ii) New Build HomeBuy and (iv) the First Time Buyers Initiative homes are sold on a continuous basis and marketing generally starts at three to six months prior to completion of the property.

(iii) Properties purchased under Open Market HomeBuy are selected by the purchaser on the open market.

Completions for the HomeBuy scheme, including the First Time Buyers Initiative, in 2006-07 and from 1 April to 31 October 2007 are set out in the following tables broken down by region.

2006-07

Region	*Open Market HomeBuy*	*New Build HomeBuy/ Shared Ownership*	*Social HomeBuy*	*First time Buyers Initiative*
London	988	3,553	24	11
South East	873	2,862	2	6
South West	84	825	0	
East Midlands	52	810	3	
Eastern	277	1,211	0	
West Midlands	137	652	0	7
Yorkshire and Humberside	31	303	12	
North East	0	100	2	
North West	65	724	4	
Total	2,507	11,040	47	24

Note:

Regional figures do not include 1,044 RCGF completion or 2,562 2005-06 RCGF completions as these cannot be broken down by region.

2007-08: 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007

Region	*Open Market HomeBuy*	*New Build HomeBuy/ Shared Ownership*	*Social HomeBuy*	*First time Buyers Initiative*
London	216	1366	56	106
South East	427	859	4	109
South West	129	422	0	55

2007-08: 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007

Region	*Open Market HomeBuy*	*New Build HomeBuy/ Shared Ownership*	*Social HomeBuy*	*First time Buyers Initiative*
East Midlands	24	208	4	0
Eastern	170	384	0	4
West Midlands	78	367	2	61
Yorkshire and Humberside	51	64	18	43
North East	4	29	9	17
North West	83	290	21	32
Total	1,182	3,989	114	427

Institute for Public Policy Research: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 142W, on the Institute for Public Policy Research: finance, what the name of the research commissioned by the Commission on Integration and Cohesion was; and how much public funding was allocated to the work. [182886]

Mr. Dhanda: The Institute for Public Policy Research wrote a paper for the Commission on Integration and Cohesion entitled "Challenging attitudes, perceptions and myths". This paper informed the Commission's final report and was published on their website:

www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk

Its cost was £7,950.

IPSOS Mori

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to IPSOS Mori in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [173288]

Caroline Flint: IPSOS Mori has undertaken a range of work for the Department over the last 24 months, for which total payments amount to some £1,958,779. The most significant items are:

	£
Area trial research in relation to Home Information Packs	619,304
Community policy (England)	471,005
New ventures research	159,348
Small area data	116,624
2007 staff survey	86,186
User empowerment in local authorities	71,750
Post implementation of Home Information Packs—qualitative research	64,000
Home information packs training centre research	49,096
Housing mobility	40,422

Radical Middle Way

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government further to the letter of 18 December 2007 to the hon. Member for Wycombe from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), about the Radical Middle Way roadshows, when officials from her Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will contact the hon. Member for Wycombe about the commitment given in that letter. [181859]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* I understand that officials in my Department have been in contact with the hon. Member's office to organise a meeting to discuss the Radical Middle Way roadshows.

Itis Holdings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings her Department has had with Itis Holdings in the last 36 months. [182090]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department and its agencies have made to Itis Holdings in the last 36 months; and what ongoing contracts it has with the company. [182091]

Mr. Dhanda: In the last three years the Department has made no payments to and holds no contracts with Itis Holdings.

Local Strategic Partnerships: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where funding for local strategic partnerships comes from; and to whom members of local strategic partnerships are accountable. [181707]

John Healey: Local strategic partnerships (LSPs) are voluntary, non statutory partnerships which are comprised of local public, private and third sector organisations. They derive their funding from voluntary contributions made by the bodies that are represented on the partnership. This is a matter for local decision and as such will vary from area to area.

Local strategic partnership members remain accountable to the organisation they represent, but we are clear that in order for LSPs to operate effectively, members should collectively agree clear and transparent lines of accountability within the partnership. The details remain a matter for local discretion and as such will vary from area to area. Further information can be found at 2.1 to 2.9 of the draft guidance which has been issued for consultation, "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities", available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will discuss with the Home Secretary the creation of a central record of offences committed under the National Licensing Scheme for houses in multiple occupation; and if she will make a statement. [182462]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has no current plans to establish a central record of offences committed under mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Implementation of mandatory HMO licensing is conducted at a local level.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the Merton planning rule requiring onsite renewables on the viability of major new developments. [172878]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1259W, which confirmed that the information required to make the assessments sought is not held centrally and could be assembled from local authorities only at a disproportionate cost.

Regional Development

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* role and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) vision boards and (ii) local strategic partnerships. [181706]

John Healey: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not made any assessment of the role or effectiveness of vision boards.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government assessed the role and effectiveness of local strategic partnerships in the Local Government White Paper (October 2006). This drew on the evidence of a programme of evaluation of English LSPs between 2002 and 2006 and a full public consultation which ran from December 2005 to March 2006. The findings of this research and consultation are available on the Communities and Local Government website. Following this assessment, the Secretary of State has recently issued draft guidance for consultation which sets out the role that Government think, subject to the results of consultation, LSPs might be expected to perform and the key governance principles which we recommend they might adopt. This draft guidance is available on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance

Sustainable Development: Urban Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated time is for an eco-town to be constructed and fully completed, following initial approval from her Department's bidding process. [182088]

Caroline Flint: After consultation on the proposals and consideration of individual schemes, we are looking for the first eco-towns to start within the next two years, and to deliver significant growth over the next decade.

Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligation there is on local planning authorities to levy affordable housing contributions on applications classified as a sui generis use under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 as amended. [175062]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: Planning Policy Statement 3—Housing requires local authorities to set targets in local plans for the amount of affordable housing to be delivered in their area, and to set out the range of circumstances in which contributing towards affordable housing will be sought.

It is for local planning authorities to decide, under the Use Classes Order, whether the use of a particular premises is sui generis, and whether it is appropriate to seek affordable housing contributions from proposed new developments which they deem to be sui generis.

Unitary Councils

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which local authorities making proposals for future unitary structure was further information sought by her Department to assist with assessment in advance of the Government statement on 27 March 2007; if she will place in the Library the *(a)* questions that were presented to each local authority and *(b)* their responses; and if she will make a statement. [182428]

John Healey: Further information was sought from all 26 authorities who submitted proposals in response to our invitation of 26 October. Details were placed on their websites by the relevant authorities. I will place information in the House Libraries in due course.

Unitary Councils: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of Bedfordshire county council's campaign to become a unitary authority to date; how much she expects to be spent in total; and how much these figures represent per council tax payer. [181063]

John Healey: We have made no such estimate. Spending by Bedfordshire county council in connection with, and in support of, their proposal for unitary status is a matter for the council, its auditors and council tax payers. The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, to which councils are required to conform, provides that councils should not use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy.

TREASURY

Census

Mike Gapes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Office for National Statistics will include White Irish as a category in the 2011 census. [181763]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking if a category of White Irish will be included in the 2011 Census. (181763)

The current version of the ethnic group question being used in the testing programme does include Irish under the White category. However, until the consultation and testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010, it is not possible to confirm what questions and response categories are to be included in the 2011 Census.

A White Paper setting out the Government's proposals including the wording of any questions about ethnicity and identity is scheduled to be published in autumn 2008.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Information Officer of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) last reviewed the security procedure for accessing the Child Benefit database within HMRC. [168705]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The latest review of the security procedures for accessing child benefit IT systems forms part of HMRC's Internal Audit Annual Programme for 2007-08. Preliminary work on this review began in June 2007 prior to the child benefit data loss incident in October 2007 and will be ongoing until March 2008.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The interim report was published on 17 December and is available in the Library of the House.

I also refer the hon. Member to the remarks I made on 28 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 344 setting out the three key steps all staff in HMRC must now follow for bulk data transfers.

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 308W, on Child Benefit: personal records, what percentage of households constitute the vast majority referred to. [181545]

Jane Kennedy: Of the letters HMRC sent to every affected household, only 1.4 per cent. were returned because the address held was not current.

At any given time there will be a small minority of households for which HMRC do not hold up-to-date addresses. Some 10,000 people move house each week and there can often be a delay in claimants informing HMRC of their change of address.

Credit

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the effect on the public finances of the current credit conditions in the economy; and if he will make a statement. [181512]

Angela Eagle: Table B2 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (Cm 7227) contains the latest estimates for the current budget surplus and net borrowing, as well as the changes to these estimates since Budget 2007. These changes include the allowance made in the pre-Budget report for the impact of financial market disruption on the public finances, along with other factors. Updated forecasts of the public finances will be published in Budget 2008.

Credit Unions

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to allow credit unions to provide interest-bearing savings accounts to their members. [182675]

Angela Eagle: As set out in the summary of responses to the consultation on the "Review of co-operative and credit union legislation in the United Kingdom", the Government see some merit in allowing credit unions the flexibility to provide interest-bearing accounts but they must also consider, among other things, the burdens this could create for smaller credit unions. The Government are currently considering the issue in more detail and will make further announcements in due course.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [168938]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Since April 2005, HMRC has discussed eight data security incidents involving customer information with the Information Commissioner's Office as a matter of good practice and to ensure appropriate lessons are learned from such incidents.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [180075]

Angela Eagle: The following table lists the number of 0845 telephone numbers in use, together with an estimate of the number of these which are used for public facing services as at 17 January 2008.

It is not possible to provide information on "similar cost" numbers as call charges are based on the tariff arrangements that customers have with their service provider and the device they use for the call and the location from which they call, and these data are not available.

Name	*Number of 0845 numbers used*	*Number relating to public facing services*
Debt Management Office	126	18
Government Actuary's Department	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	977	135
HM Treasury	0	0
National Savings and Investments	8	8
Office of Government Commerce	1	1
Office for National Statistics	22	22
Royal Mint	85	85
Valuation Office Agency	3	2
Total	1,222	[1]271

[1] Estimated

European Union: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK net contribution was to the EU *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* is expected to be in 2011. [181773]

Jane Kennedy: The United Kingdom's net contribution to the EC Budget in 2006-07 can be found at table B11 (page 173) of the pre-Budget report (Cm 7227). Details of the Government's latest forecast of the United Kingdom's net contribution to the EC Budget over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 can also be found at table B11. These numbers will be updated as usual for the 2008 Budget.

Income: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average household income was in Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each year since 1997. [181551]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking what the average household income was in Houghton and Washington East constituency in each year since 1997 (181551).

The table below shows average net household incomes for Houghton and Washington East constituency for 2001/02 and 2004/05, both before and after housing costs. For comparison, estimates of average income for either Great Britain or the UK have also been provided. These are based on the "Households Below Average Income" series which is produced using the Family Resources Survey. There are no figures available for other years.

Average weekly household income[1, 2, 3]

Per week

	Net weekly equivalised household income (before housing costs)[4]	*Net weekly equivalised household Income (after housing costs)*[4]
2001-02		
Houghton and Washington, East	320	280
Great Britain	390	340
2004-05		
Houghton and Washington, East	360	310
UK	430	370

[1] Due to changes in methodology these two estimates do not provide a reliable estimate of the change between 2001-02 and 2004-05. Estimates have not been adjusted for inflation.

[2] Net income is gross income minus income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational pension schemes, all maintenance and child support payments.

[3] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

[4] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:

ONS, Department for Work and Pensions.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider introducing performance measures for HM Revenue and Customs officers on proactive engagement with enforcement officers implementing the National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation. [182459]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's remit does not include supporting enforcement officers from local authorities implementing the National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Northern Rock

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Northern Rock Foundation in the event of the nationalisation of Northern Rock bank. [182155]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement the Chancellor made on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1207-24.

Personal Savings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have to encourage saving to reduce the credit deficit; and if he will make a statement. [181630]

Angela Eagle: Since 1997, the Government have sought to support saving and asset ownership for all, from childhood, through working life and into retirement. The Government have introduced Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) to develop and extend the saving habit, which from April 2008 will be made simpler, more flexible and more generous. The Government have also introduced the Child Trust Fund, which will ensure that all children will hold a financial asset at the age of 18, and have piloted the Saving Gateway with feasibility work into the system requirements to enable wider introduction now being taken forward. Personal Accounts will enable individuals on low to medium incomes to save in a pension over their working lives.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships: Data Protection

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he held with the *(a)* British Banking Association, *(b)* Building Societies Association and *(c)* Council of Mortgage Lenders on safeguarding data provided under the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007 to prevent its use for fraudulent purposes. [180898]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what discussions were held with the *(a)* British Banking Association, *(b)* Building Societies Association and *(c)* Council of Mortgage Lenders on safeguarding data provided under the Supply of Information (Registration of Deaths) Regulations 2007 to prevent its use for fraudulent purposes. (180898)

The British Banking Association, Building Societies Association and Council of Mortgage Lenders were invited to respond to the Disclosure of Death Registration Information consultation which was published in December 2006. The British Banking Association and the Building Societies Association responded to the consultation, their responses have been published on the GRO website. The consultation included information on the requirement for organisations to meet security standards as part of a compliance regime to be implemented with the scheme.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to inform the public about the disclosure of death registration data under the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007. [180899]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question about the plans to inform the public about the disclosure of death registration data under the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007. (180899)

A press release was issued on 16 January 2008 to all national and regional newspapers within the UK, and to all social affairs and home affairs correspondents.

Details of the scheme, and how to apply for the data, can be found on the website of the General Register Office (GRO) for England and Wales. Links to this website can also be found on the websites of GRO Northern Ireland and GRO Scotland.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what safeguards he has put in place to ensure that death registration data disclosed under the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007 will not be available to those not entitled to it. [180900]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question about the safeguards that will be put in place to ensure that death registration data disclosed under the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007 will not be available to those not entitled to it. (180900)

Applicants for the data will be subject to a rigorous two stage application process to ensure that they will be using the data lawfully and that they adhere to the appropriate physical and data security standards for its receipt, access and processing. Data will be encrypted and transferred from GRO to a named individual in each organisation by secure courier.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has held with the devolved Administrations on the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007. [180901]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about any discussions held with the devolved administrations on the Supply of Information (Register of Death) Regulations 2007. (180901)

The Registrars General for England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have introduced the Disclosure of Death Registration Information Scheme jointly in order that customers can receive death information for all of the UK. The Registrars General for Northern Ireland and Scotland have discussed the scheme accordingly with Ministers in the devolved administrations throughout its development.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether written Ministerial approval is required to authorise the release of death registration data under the terms of the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007. [180902]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about whether written Ministerial approval is required to authorise the release of death registration data under the terms of the Supply of Information (Register of Deaths) Regulations 2007. (180902)

The regulations required approval by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the decision on whether to release data to any of the organisations named within the regulations is within the powers of the Registrar General.

Taxation: Gaming

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what factors he takes into consideration when determining the tax rate for gaming products; [181558]

(2) if he will apply a zero-rate VAT liability to the bingo industry; [181697]

(3) what plans he has to amend the taxation and duties payable by *(a)* bookmakers, *(b)* bingo operators and *(c)* gaming machines operators. [181969]

Angela Eagle: The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made at Budget alongside all other tax decisions.

Unemployment: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 18 to 24-year-old people are unemployed in Easington constituency; and if he will make a statement. [182375]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many 16 to 18 and 18 to 24 year old people are employed in Easington constituency; and if he will make a statement. (182375).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates based on people aged 16-17 and 18-24, in employment, resident in Easington, for the 12 months ending June 2007, from the latest available data from the APS. The corresponding employment rate for persons in the 16-17 age group is unavailable. In the 18-24 age group the rate is 79 per cent for the 12 months ending June 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: employment in Easington for the 12 months ending June 2007

Age	*Level (thousand)*	*Rate (percentage)*
16 to 17	[1]—	[1]—
18 to 24	4	79

[1] Estimates not available since the group sample size is too small.

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual Population Survey; ONS

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what percentage of tax credit claimants have been overpaid more than once since their claim began; [181469]

(2) how many and what percentage of tax credit claimants have been underpaid more than once since their claim began. [181470]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credits are designed to be responsive to changes in a family's circumstances There will be an under or overpayment at the end of the year if changes are not reported or processed promptly. The Government announced a package of measures at the Pre-Budget Report 2005 to ensure the system strikes the right balance between providing a stable award and maintaining the ability to respond to changes. Once fully implemented this package is expected to reduce the level of overpayments by around a third.

The number and proportion of tax credit awards with more than one overpayment or underpayment, between 2003-04 and 2005-06, is detailed in the following table:

Years in which overpayment or underpayment occurred	*Number of awards with more than one overpayment*	*Number of awards with more than one underpayment*
2003-04 and 2004-05	528	100
2004-05 and 2005-06	404	134
2003-04 and 2005-06	227	78
2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06	260	28
Total	1,419	340
Proportion of all tax credit awards in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (percentage)	18	4

JUSTICE

Cabinet Committees

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Cabinet committees and sub-committees he chairs. [181907]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw), Chairs the Ministerial Committee on Constitution, the Ministerial Committee on Domestic Affairs, and its Sub-Committee on Justice and Crime.

The full list of Cabinet Committees, their full membership and terms of reference, is available in the Libraries of both Houses. The details are also available on the Cabinet Office website. The Prime Minister notified the House of an updated Cabinet Committee list via a written statement on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179375]

Maria Eagle: My Department has 58 0845 telephone numbers and 53 0870 numbers which are in use for the public.

The Department does not keep a central record for related departmental bodies.

Driving Offences: Prosecutions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were prosecuted for *(a)* speeding and *(b)* speed-related offences in each region of England in each of the last five years. [182689]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for speeding-related offences in England, by region, from 2002 to 2006 are in Table 1. Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Data showing the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences between 2001 and 2005 are in table 2. Data for 2006 will be available later this year.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for speeding-related offences[1] in England, broken down by region, 2002-06[2, 3]

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	5,648	4,925	6,648	4,650	4,782
North West	17,459	19,453	17,588	18,214	19,835
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,038	7,737	13,465	15,389	15,523
East Midlands	11,598	17,763	18,309	17,609	15,551
West Midlands	11,766	12,029	17,416	14,045	11,952
East of England	23,798	20,871	21,692	27,248	25,927
London	8,498	8,677	8,888	10,959	6,626
South East	23,050	23,755	23,059	24,539	23,589
South West	14,066	19,734	19,672	21,967	23,719
England	122,921	134,944	146,737	154,620	147,504

[1] The data comprise speeding offences not detected by speed camera devices and speeding offences detected by camera devices; under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] by Government office region, England, 2001-05

Number of offences

Region and police force area	*2001*	*2002[3]*	*2003[3]*	*2004*	*2005*
North East	79,042	74,011	100,285	118,442	83,436
North West	102,884	219,883	204,702	186,659	193,954
Yorkshire and The Humber	67,167	67,033	153,020	169,721	184,800
East Midlands	168,369	213,588	221,082	202,323	172,361
West Midlands	69,818	90,953	197,252	191,351	186,943
East	148,286	206,632	238,442	274,838	290,362
London	59,125	58,116	85,077	111,278	136,701
South East	235,500	219,791	290,925	265,901	285,203
South West	105,371	135,549	272,383	304,379	264,190

[1] Covers notices paid only where there is no further action.

[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.

[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Elections: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has been invited by the government of Pakistan to send election observers to that country; and if he will make a statement. [181174]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The Government of Pakistan have welcomed election observers to the forthcoming elections scheduled for 18 February. The EU will be sending a full election observation mission. The UK will be participating in this mission as well as providing bilateral election observers.

Human Trafficking: Telephone Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of a common helpline number for victims of human trafficking across Europe; and if he will make a statement. [181679]

Maria Eagle: We recognise the need for transnational work to combat human trafficking and welcome the continued efforts of the European Union in this area. However, we foresee some difficulties with a proposed EU hotline, including issues relating to the management and dissemination of information received and language difficulties. The value of an EU hotline over and above national arrangements and existing structures would have to be demonstrated.

Legislation: Channel Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what items of Channel Islands legislation are awaiting ratification; and when each was received for ratification. [181642]

Mr. Wills: The Channel Islands legislation currently awaiting ratification is listed in the following table, in alphabetical order, together with the date each item was received:

Legislation	*Date*
Air Transport Permits (Repeal) (Jersey) Law 200-	October 2007
Animal Welfare (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2006	October 2095

Legislation	*Date*
Banking Business (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Cash Controls (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2007	October 2007
Collective Investment Funds (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Company Securities (Insider Dealing) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007	January 2008
Competition and Trading Standards (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2007	March 2007
Crime (Transnational Organized Crime) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Criminal Justice (Aiding and Abetting etc.) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2007	August 2007
Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law200-	November 2007
Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007	July 2007
Criminal Offences (Jersey) Law 200-	March 2007
Drug Trafficking (Offences) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Emergency and Health Workers (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006	January 2007
Fees Charges and Penalties (Guernsey) Law, 2007	February 2007
Finance (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Financial Services (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 200-	October 2007
Financial Services (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Forfeiture of Money in Civil Proceedings Law, 2007	November 2007
Forgery and Counterfeiting (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006	September 2006
Harbours (Administration) (Amendment No. 7) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Homicide and Suicide (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006	January 2007
Income Tax (Amendment No. 29) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Income Tax (Amendment No. 30) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Income Tax (Zero 10) (No.2) Law, 2007	January 2008
Income Tax (Zero 10) (Guernsey) Law, 2007	November 2007
Insurance Business (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Law Reform (Inheritance and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2006	October 2006
Loi (1939) sur les honoraires des Avocats et des Écrivains (Repeal) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Marriage and Civil Status (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Preferred Debts, Désastre Proceedings and Miscellaneous Provisions(Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2006	October 2006
Price and Charge Indicators (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Proceeds of Crime (Cash Seizure) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Public Finances (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 200-	December 2007
Public Order (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006	January 2007
Regulation of Utilities (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007	July 2007
Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2007	April 2007
Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2006	November 2006
Road Traffic (Parking Fees and Charges) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2007	May 2007
Smoking (Prohibition in Public Places and Workplaces) (Alderney) Law, 2007	April 2007
States of Jersey (Amendment No. 3) Law 200-	July 2007
States of Jersey (Amendment No. 4) Law 200-	November 2007
Terrorism (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 200-	November 2007
Trusts (Guernsey) Law, 2007	August 2007

National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average fine imposed has been for those found guilty of breaking the National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation laws; [182460]

(2) how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions there have been under the new National Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation in each local authority area. [182461]

Maria Eagle: The relevant part of the 2004 Housing Act came into force on 6 April 2006. In 2006, the latest year for which data are available, there was one prosecution, resulting in a conviction and a £1,000 fine.

The prosecution took place at the Sussex (Western) court, within the Sussex police force area. From the information available my Department are unable to determine in which local authority area the offence took place.

Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department first received a recommendation that C-NOMIS be cancelled from staff working on the project. [181868]

Mr. Hanson: C-NOMIS is not being cancelled.

In the written ministerial statement I laid before the house on the 8 January, I announced the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS programme. Within that programme, the Prison NOMIS project will continue the roll-out of C-NOMIS, building on the version that is currently successfully in use as the live case management system in three public prisons, and preserving the financial and business benefit from work completed to date.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether estates development, including in relation to prison capacity, is classified as capital expenditure in the National Offender Management Service budget. [181941]

Mr. Hanson: In line with Government accounting rules all expenditure on estates development (including prison capacity) which results in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) obtaining an asset with an economic life/benefit of more than one year is classified as capital expenditure in the NOMS budget.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to *(a)* implement the pay recommendations of the prison and police review boards and *(b)* pay probation staff their regular yearly increments. [182109]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Prison Service pay review body (PSPRB) is due to report its recommendations by 16 February 2008. These will be considered at the appropriate time.

(b) Under the Probation Service pay agreement probation staff are contractually entitled to pay progression on an annual basis from the 1 April each year but the amount of this progression is the subject of negotiation with the trades unions.

Offender Management Act 2007

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when sections 28 to 30 of the Offender Management Act 2007 will come into force; and if he will make a statement. [182069]

Mr. Hanson: Work is currently being undertaken to enable mandatory polygraph pilots to begin by April 2009. By virtue of section 41 of the Offender Management Act 2007, sections 28 and 29 may be brought into force by order only in relation to a specified area for a specified time, unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by, each House of Parliament. The legislation was framed in this way in order to allow pilots of mandatory polygraph testing of sex offenders on licence to take place in specified areas before Parliament decides on whether mandatory testing may be rolled out nationally.

Offenders: Accommodation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1654W, on Offenders: Accommodation, how many of those receiving bail in respect of alleged violence against the person breached their bail conditions as a result of *(a)* alleged re-offending, *(b)* failure to attend court and *(c)* another cause. [182271]

Mr. Straw: In 2006, an estimated 5,500 defendants proceeded against for offences in the violence against the person group failed to appear to bail. This information is taken from table 4.9 of the publication "Criminal Statistics 2006, England and Wales". Data on re-offending while on bail and on breaches of bail conditions are not collected centrally.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1654W, on Offenders: Accommodation, how many of those bailed for violence against the person *(a)* were acquitted, *(b)* received a custodial sentence and *(c)* received a non-custodial sentence in each of the last three years; [182270]

(2) what proportion of defendants *(a)* bailed and *(b)* remanded in custody (i) were acquitted, (ii) received a custodial sentence and (iii) received a non-custodial sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [182302]

Mr. Straw: Data showing the number and percentages of defendants acquitted, and receiving custodial and non-custodial sentences, whether remanded on bail or in custody, for 2004-06 (latest three years available) can be found in the following table. These data are a summary of table 4.8 in the annual publication "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales". An offence group breakdown is not available by outcome. The general presumption in favour of remand on bail (though subject to important exceptions) is based upon the fundamental principle of our legal system that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Persons proceeded against by type of remand and final outcome at magistrates courts and the Crown court[1], 2004-06—England and Wales

Number of persons (thousand)

	2004		*2005*		*2006*	
Final outcome	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody[2]*	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody[2]*	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody[2]*
Acquitted or not proceeded with etc.	151.2	17.0	130.8	14.5	119.2	12.8
Convicted:						
Immediate custody[3]	44.8	43.7	42.0	41.3	38.7	39.7
Non-custodial sentence[4]	261.9	22.4	259.1	19.9	258.4	18.0

Persons proceeded against by type of remand and final outcome at magistrates courts and the Crown court[1], 2004-06—England and Wales

Number of persons (thousand)

	2004		2005		2006	
Final outcome	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]
Total number sentenced[5]	319.9	69.6	314.2	64.7	310.1	61.2
Total	471.1	86.6	445.0	79.2	429.3	74.0

Percentage of persons

	2004		2005		2006	
Final outcome	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]	*Bailed*	*Remanded in custody*[2]
Acquitted or not proceeded with etc.	32	20	29	18	28	17
Convicted:						
Immediate custody[3]	10	50	9	52	9	54
Non-custodial sentence[4]	56	26	58	25	60	24
Total number sentenced[5]	68	80	71	82	72	83
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Remand status shown is that given by the court passing sentence.

[2] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail. These figures are not directly comparable with the number of persons received on remand into Prison Service establishments (published annually in "Offender Management Caseload Statistics"). This is mainly because these figures relate to the year of the final court decision, rather than the year of the initial reception into prison on remand, which may be different.

[3] Includes detention in a young offender institution, detention and training orders and unsuspended imprisonment.

[4] Includes discharges, fines, community sentences, and fully suspended sentences.

[5] Includes offences otherwise dealt with, not counted as custodial or non-custodial sentences.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the estimates presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Offenders: Foreigners

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those bailed for indictable offences were foreign nationals in the last year for which data are available. [182803]

Mr. Hanson: Court proceedings data held by my Department, which include information on bail, do not identify the nationality of the defendants proceeded against.

Prison Sentences

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average length of prison sentence was *(a)* imposed and *(b)* served in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [182625]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average custodial sentence length (ACSL) in months imposed for 2000 to 2006. The figures given are for all offences at all courts and exclude life and indeterminate sentences.

	ACSL
2000	11.4
2001	11.8
2002	12.6
2003	12.6
2004	12.9
2005	12.6
2006	12.4

On average prisoners serve half the time they are sentenced to.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of all prison sentences handed down in each year since 1997 were for three months or less; and if he will make a statement. [182633]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for three months or less. It also shows the proportion of those persons sentenced to immediate custody who received three months or less.

	Number given custody	*Up to and including three months*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
1997	93,841	35,054	37
1998	100,566	39,427	39
1999	105,323	43,059	41
2000	106,187	41,585	39
2001	106,273	40,884	38
2002	111,607	42,542	38

	Number given custody	*Up to and including three months*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
2003	107,670	40,754	38
2004	106,322	39,707	37
2005	101,236	37,100	37
2006	96,017	34,712	36

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of all prison sentences handed down in each year since 1997 were for six months or less; and if he will make a statement. [182634]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for six months or less. It also shows the proportion of those persons sentenced to immediate custody who received six months or less.

	Number given custody	*Up to and including six months*	*Proportion (percentage)*
1997	93,841	57,271	61
1998	100,566	63,741	63
1999	105,323	69,262	66
2000	106,187	70,099	66
2001	106,273	69,914	66
2002	111,607	71,961	64
2003	107,670	70,252	65
2004	106,322	68,199	64
2005	101,236	63,856	63
2006	96,017	59,134	62

Prisoners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Irish and *(b)* other foreign EEA nationals are serving sentences of imprisonment for murder in prisons in England and Wales. [182310]

Mr. Straw: At the end of September 2007 there were 100 prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales from countries within the European Economic Area who were serving sentences for murder, of which 50 were from the Republic of Ireland (the EEA is all EU countries, plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Therefore, the figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign national prisoners were held in English and Welsh prisons on 31 December 2007, broken down by nationality; [179771]

(2) how many foreign prisoners of no known country of origin there were in England and Wales on 31 December 2007. [179772]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September 2007, the most recent date for which information is currently available, there were, overall, a total of 11,211 foreign national prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales. There were an additional 919 prisoners where the nationality was not currently recorded on central IT systems, of which 650 were untried prisoners held on remand and their nationality is not yet recorded on central data systems. The total includes prisoners held on remand or serving custodial sentences, as well as those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the immigration removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme).The full breakdown of these figures can be found in the following table below.

These figures are updated quarterly at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

NOMS continues to work with the Border and Immigration Agency to speed up the system for removing those foreign national prisoners who meet the deportation criteria. Where the information is not already available, this will include establishing the nationality of individuals, and the relevant country of origin (or transit) to deport them to if appropriate.

Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales, 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Total*
All nationalities	80,855
UK nationals	68,725
Foreign nationals	11,211
Not recorded	919
Total Africa	3,313
Angola	86
Burundi	10
Benin	3
Botswana	2
Ivory Coast	27
Central African Republic	9
Congo	119
Cameroon, United Republic	38
Cape Verde	1
Algeria	192
Egypt	16
Ethiopia	40
Ghana	240
Gambia	44
Guinea	14
Equatorial Guinea	1
Guinea/Bissau	1
Kenya	78
Liberia	28
Lesotho	1
Libya	18
Morocco	44
Mali	2
Mauritania	3
Mauritius	17
Malawi	12
Mozambique	6

Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales, 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Namibia	5
Niger	6
Nigeria	1,098
St. Pierre and Miquelon	1
Rwanda	19
Sudan	46
Sierra Leone	84
Senegal	5
Somalia	379
Swaziland	1
Chad	1
Togo	10
Tunisia	21
Tanzania	17
Uganda	77
Western Sahara	1
South Africa	225
Zambia	18
Congo, Democratic Republic	35
Zimbabwe	211
Total Asia	2,017
Afghanistan	96
Bangladesh	164
Burma	5
China	349
Hong Kong	6
Indonesia	3
India	320
British Indian Ocean Territories	1
Japan	2
Cambodia	1
Korea, Republic of (South)	6
Sri Lanka	150
Mongolia	8
Malaysia	26
Philippines	20
Pakistan	412
Singapore	6
Thailand	7
Vietnam	434
Total central and south America	333
Argentina	5
Bolivia	7
Brazil	74
Belize	1
Chile	10
Colombia	114
Costa Rica	3
Ecuador	10
French Guyana	2
Guatemala	3
Guyana	38
Honduras	1
Mexico	22
Panama	3
Peru	6
Paraguay	1
Surinam	10
El Salvador	2

Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales, 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Uruguay	1
Venezuela	20
Total Europe	3,162
Albania	174
Armenia	5
Austria	14
Azerbaijan	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	7
Belgium	40
Bulgaria	33
Croatia	11
Switzerland	7
Czech Republic	54
Cyprus	52
Germany	131
Denmark	9
Estonia	22
Spain	72
Finland	3
France	152
Georgia	16
Gibraltar	2
Greece	20
Hungary	22
Irish Republic	651
Iceland	1
Italy	95
Kazakhstan	4
Kyrgyzstan	3
Lithuania	203
Latvia	59
Moldova	28
Macedonia	8
Serbia and Montenegro	92
Malta	6
Netherlands	118
Norway	5
Poland	362
Portugal	192
Romania	140
Sweden	15
Slovakia	20
San Marino	1
Slovenia	5
Russia	94
Turkey	203
Turkmenistan	2
Uzbekistan	3
Total middle east	568
United Arab Emirates	8
Iran	207
Israel	23
Iraq	254
Jordan	7
Kuwait	11
Lebanon	24
Oman	1
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	12

Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales, 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Syrian Arab Republic	7
Yemen, Republic of	10
Total north America	131
Canada	25
United States of America	106
Total Oceania	51
Australia	26
Fiji	11
French Southern Territories	1
Kiribati	1
New Zealand	10
Papua New Guinea	2
Total other	13
West Indies	1,622
Anguilla	1
Netherlands Antilles	11
Barbados	35
Bermuda	4
Bahamas	5
Cuba	4
Dominica	13
Dominican Republic	11
Grenada	18
Haiti	1
Jamaica	1,357
St. Lucia	36
Montserrat	16
Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis	3
Trinidad and Tobago	92
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	14

Note:

Data Sources and Quality: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Source:

This table has been taken from table 5 of the monthly published statistics to be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custodySep07.pdf

Table 5 is updated quarterly.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals there were in UK prisons in the most recent period for which figures are available, broken down by country of origin. [181708]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September 2007, the latest date on which published data is available, there were 11,211 foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

Information on the country of origin of individual prisoners is not available, and may not be the same as their nationality. The following table gives a breakdown by nationality of all foreign national prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales. It is available quarterly as Table 5 within the population in custody monthly published tables at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The latest edition containing Table 5 is given at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custodySep07.pdf

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/pop-in-custody-sep07.xls

Comparable information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

For the proportion of total prisoners who are foreign nationals, Council of Europe data on foreign national prisoners held in other major western countries reveal much higher proportions, for example in Austria (43 per cent.), Spain (33 per cent.), Germany (28 per cent.) and France (21 per cent.) than the figure for England and Wales (14 per cent.), based on 2006 population data.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
All nationalities	76,439	4,416	80,855
UK nationals	65,387	3,338	68,725
Foreign nationals	10,223	988	11,211
Not recorded	829	90	919
Total Africa	2,874	439	3,313
Angola	80	6	86
Burundi	10	0	10
Benin	3	0	3
Botswana	2	0	2
Ivory Coast	26	1	27
Central African Republic	9	0	9
Congo	112	7	119
Cameroon, United Republic	36	2	38
Cape Verde	1	0	1
Algeria	190	2	192
Egypt	16	0	16
Ethiopia	39	1	40
Ghana	206	34	240
Gambia	40	4	44
Guinea	13	1	14
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	1
Guinea/Bissau	1	0	1
Kenya	66	12	78
Liberia	20	8	28
Lesotho	0	1	1
Libya	18	0	18
Morocco	43	1	44
Mali	2	0	2
Mauritania	2	1	3
Mauritius	16	1	17
Malawi	11	1	12
Mozambique	6	0	6

Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Namibia	4	1	5
Niger	6	0	6
Nigeria	873	226	1,098
St. Pierre And Miquelon	1	0	1
Rwanda	19	0	19
Sudan	44	2	46
Sierra Leone	75	9	84
Senegal	4	1	5
Somalia	369	10	379
Swaziland	1	0	1
Chad	1	0	1
Togo	8	2	10
Tunisia	21	0	21
Tanzania	16	1	17
Uganda	72	5	77
Western Sahara	1	0	1
South Africa	166	59	225
Zambia	15	3	18
Congo, Democratic Republic	35	0	35
Zimbabwe	172	38	211
Total Asia	1,903	114	2,017
Afghanistan	96	0	96
Bangladesh	160	4	164
Burma	5	0	5
China	313	36	349
Hong Kong	5	1	6
Indonesia	3	0	3
India	306	14	320
British Indian Ocean Territories	1	0	1
Japan	1	1	2
Cambodia	1	0	1
Korea, Republic of (South)	6	0	6
Sri Lanka	148	2	150
Mongolia	7	1	8
Malaysia	21	5	26
Philippines	16	4	20
Pakistan	402	10	412
Singapore	3	3	6
Thailand	4	3	7
Vietnam	404	31	434
Total Central and South America	292	41	333
Argentina	3	2	5
Bolivia	6	1	7
Brazil	65	9	74
Belize	1	0	1
Chile	9	1	10
Colombia	108	6	114
Costa Rica	3	0	3
Ecuador	9	1	10
French Guyana	2	0	2
Guatemala	3	0	3
Guyana	30	7	38
Honduras	1	0	1
Mexico	17	5	22
Panama	2	1	3
Peru	6	0	6
Paraguay	0	1	1
Surinam	9	1	10
El Salvador	0	2	2
Uruguay	1	0	1
Venezuela	16	4	20
Total Europe	2,943	218	3,162
Albania	173	1	174
Armenia	5	0	5
Austria	12	2	14
Azerbaijan	4	0	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	7	0	7
Belgium	37	3	40
Bulgaria	18	15	33
Croatia	10	1	11
Switzerland	6	1	7
Czech Republic	49	5	54
Cyprus	50	2	52
Germany	119	12	131
Denmark	9	0	9
Estonia	19	3	22
Spain	61	12	72
Finland	2	1	3
France	137	15	152
Georgia	16	0	16
Gibraltar	2	0	2
Greece	15	5	20
Hungary	19	3	22
Irish Republic	618	34	651
Iceland	1	0	1
Italy	87	8	95
Kazakhstan	4	0	4
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	3
Lithuania	197	6	203
Latvia	57	2	59
Moldova	26	2	28
Macedonia	8	0	8
Serbia and Montenegro	90	2	92
Malta	6	0	6
Netherlands	99	19	118
Norway	5	0	5
Poland	342	20	362
Portugal	183	9	192
Romania	123	17	140
Sweden	11	4	15
Slovakia	18	2	20
San Marino	1	0	1
Slovenia	4	1	5
Russia	82	12	94
Turkey	202	1	203
Turkmenistan	2	0	2
Uzbekistan	3	0	3
Total Middle East	558	10	568
United Arab Emirates	8	0	8

Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales 30 September 2007

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Iran	200	7	207
Israel	23	0	23
Iraq	253	2	254
Jordan	7	0	7
Kuwait	11	0	11
Lebanon	23	1	24
Oman	1	0	1
Qatar	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	12	0	12
Syrian Arab Republic	7	0	7
Yemen, Republic of	10	0	10
Total North America	119	12	131
Canada	19	6	25
United States of America	100	6	106
Total Oceania	49	2	51
Australia	24	2	26
Fiji	11	0	11
French Southern Territories	1	0	1
Kiribati	1	0	1
New Zealand	10	0	10
Papua New Guinea	2	0	2
Total other	13	0	13
West Indies	1,471	151	1,622
Anguilla	1	0	1
Netherlands Antilles	7	4	11
Barbados	32	3	35
Bermuda	4	0	4
Bahamas	5	0	5
Cuba	3	1	4
Dominica	12	1	13
Dominican Republic	8	3	11
Grenada	15	3	18
Haiti	1	0	1
Jamaica	1,225	102	1,357
St. Lucia	29	7	36
Montserrat	15	1	16
Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis	2	1	3
Trinidad and Tobago	69	23	92
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	11	3	14

Notes:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so, although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the freehold owner is for each prison in England and Wales; and, where the Prison Service rents or leases land or buildings within the Prison Estate, what the remaining periods of each such contract or lease were as at 1st January 2008. [182431]

Mr. Hanson: The majority of prisons are freehold. There are three leased prisons and other leased property, the details of which are as follows:

Prisons	
Dartmoor	99 year lease due to expire in 2076
Lancaster Castle	25 year lease due to expire in 2026
Kennet	5 year lease due to expire in 2012 (there is an option to extend for a further 5 years)

Other Property

Location	*Prison service area*	*Type of accommodation*	*Lease expiring*
207 Leicester Road., Ibstock, Leicestershire	East Midlands	Office	24 March 2016
8 Rishworth Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 3BY	Yorkshire and the Humber	Office	13 November 2013
Crane Mead, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 9PY	Yorkshire and the Humber	Office	8 October 2018
	Durham	Office	17 January 2019
40 Melton Street, London, NW1 2EE	West Midlands	4 Storage Units	6 September 2010
Crane Mead, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 9PY	Yorkshire and the Humber	Office	8 October 2018
28 Queens Road, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3DB	East of England	Office	31 December 2019
85 Abbotsbury Road, London, W14 8JZ	East of England	Office	26 November 2016
Tanners Lane, Warrington, Cheshire	North West	Office	31 August 2010

For the following offices lease expiry dates are not available:

HMPS Staff Care and Welfare Services, Euxton Lane, Lincoln House, Stirling House and Windsor House Chorley—North West99
HMPS Staff Care and Welfare Services, Flowers Hill, Bristol—South West
HMPS Staff Care and Welfare Services, the Lodge, Hawkhills—Yorkshire and Humberside
Phoenix House (Celtic Springs) Newport
4th Floor, Peat House, Leicester
Marston House, Wetherby
1-3 Faraday Court, Burton on Trent
Unit C, Meridian Business Park, Leicester
Eastern Area Office, Drayton Old Lodge, Norwich
Unit 8 and 9 Silkwood Business Park, Wakefield
Faraday Court, Branston
Tannery Court
Oakwood House, Warrington
7 Thornes Office Park, Derby Dale Road, Wakefield
NE Area Office, 2 Artemis Court, St. Johns Road, Durham
AMP House, Dingwall Road, Croydon
Cygnet Park, Unit 2, the Office Villa, Peterborough
Park House, Hewell Grange, 61 Park House, Redditch, Worcester
Thorne Road, Doncaster, PECS Area Office, 9 Thorne Road, Doncaster

Prisons: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the methodology used in collating performance indicators for prisons, with particular reference to HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [182385]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service is reviewing the methodology for performance management for all prisons, including HMP Peterborough, with a view to assessing performance in an equitable and transparent way. The review will be informed by the conclusions of Lord Carter's report.

Regional Offender Managers

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost is of the regional offender managers' property and accommodation in the National Offender Management Service in 2007-08; and where this cost is published. [181944]

Mr. Hanson: The estimated cost of the regional offender managers' property and accommodation in 2007-08 is £1.4 million. This cost will be included within the expenditure figures in the Ministry of Justice's annual accounts for 2007-08 but is not disclosed separately.

Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of accused people whose cases were discontinued in the interests of justice were convicted of a further offence within two years in the latest period for which figures are available. [182299]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data collected within the central court databases do not hold sufficient detail to allow data on those with a discontinued case to be combined with data on subsequent offences held separately with other databases.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents of restrictive physical intervention were recorded in each establishment of the secure estate for children and young people in the last year for which figures are available. [181455]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the number of recorded restrictive physical interventions in each establishment of the secure estate for children and young people from 1 April to 30 November 2007. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board. The use of restraint is currently subject to an independent review which is due to report to Ministers by 4 April.

The Youth Justice Board has been collecting data against common definitions from April 2007. Comparable data are not available for earlier periods.

	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*
Hassockfield	49	56	38	49	96	49	42	44
Rainsbrook	20	26	21	42	50	29	52	45
Oakhill	33	108	151	149	86	71	67	55
Medway	68	80	66	146	81	53	81	67
Ashfield	40	30	29	27	27	53	37	59
Parc	8	6	5	8	6	3	5	5
Brinsford	10	4	11	4	4	27	7	12
Castington	18	8	13	22	20	12	18	18
Feltham	24	24	24	45	24	17	37	18
Hindley	21	22	26	54	30	30	27	31
Huntercombe	29	26	33	30	43	21	43	47
Lancaster Farms	23	42	31	49	52	15	20	22
Stoke Heath	9	10	13	14	20	13	11	12
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Warren Hill	11	29	28	22	17	14	10	15
Werrington	29	18	27	20	30	14	17	22
Wetherby	31	23	21	44	22	44	33	34
Cookham Wood	3	11	0	2	0	0	1	0
Downview	9	0	0	0	4	2	2	2
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0
Foston Hall	5	13	10	0	4	6	12	0
New Hall	3	3	5	4	3	3	9	23
Aldine House	4	4	0	0	5	1	2	2
Atkinson Unit	2	6	8	15	18	12	5	10
Aycliffe	24	14	24	23	20	27	18	7
Barton Moss	7	12	6	11	15	9	9	8
Clayfields	11	8	0	0	0	23	18	5
East Moor	50	70	57	32	28	14	26	59
Gladstone House	3	12	15	4	5	14	23	7
Hillside Secure Centre	3	2	6	5	4	5	0	2
Kyloe House	4	3	1	6	0	1	0	0
Lincolnshire SCH	20	51	22	8	13	7	7	12
Orchard Lodge	4	6	10	27	30	31	25	10
Red Bank	30	14	25	24	26	39	25	6
Sutton Place	8	0	0	5	17	11	7	4
Swanwick Lodge	7	5	7	7	9	1	1	0
Vinney Green	8	6	7	6	13	4	8	6

Young Offender Institutions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monthly maximum capacity of custody places was for under-18s in each of the last five reported years, broken down by *(a)* type of facility and *(b)* gender of offender catered for; and if he will make a statement. [181461]

Mr. Hanson: The following table, which contains information provided by the Youth Justice Board, shows the maximum capacity of the secure estate for children and young people from April 2002 to December 2007 (the latest month for which figures are available). They are broken down by facility type and, in the case of young offender institutions, by sex. Secure training centres and some secure children's homes are mixed establishments.

				YOI		
	Total places	*SCH*	*STC*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*
2002-03						
April	3,436	254	130	3,052	2,964	88
May	3,436	254	130	3,052	2,964	88
June	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
July	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
August	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
September	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
October	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
November	3,468	254	162	3,052	2,964	88
December	3,500	254	194	3,052	2,964	88
January	3,500	254	194	3,052	2,964	88
February	3,500	254	194	3,052	2,964	88
March	3,500	254	194	3,052	2,964	88
2003-04						
April	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
May	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
June	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
July	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
August	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
September	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
October	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
November	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
December	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88

	Total places	SCH	STC	YOI		
				Total	Boys	Girls
January	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
February	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
March	3,442	297	194	2,951	2,863	88
2004-05						
April	3,229	235	194	2,800	2,712	88
May	3,229	235	194	2,800	2,712	88
June	3,229	235	194	2,800	2,712	88
July	3,229	235	194	2,800	2,712	88
August	3,309	235	274	2,800	2,712	88
September	3,309	235	274	2,800	2,712	88
October	3,309	235	274	2,800	2,712	88
November	3,317	235	274	2,808	2,720	88
December	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
January	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
February	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
March	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
2005-06						
April	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
May	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
June	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
July	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
August	3,333	235	274	2,824	2,720	104
September	3,350	235	274	2,841	2,720	121
October	3,350	235	274	2,841	2,720	121
November	3,356	235	274	2,847	2,720	127
December	3,356	235	274	2,847	2,720	127
January	3,334	235	274	2,825	2,720	105
February	3,334	235	274	2,825	2,720	105
March	3,334	235	274	2,825	2,720	105
2006-07						
April	3,466	235	274	2,957	2,882	75
May	3,476	235	274	2,967	2,892	75
June	3,476	235	274	2,967	2,892	75
July	3,476	235	274	2,967	2,892	75
August	3,487	235	285	2,967	2,892	75
September	3,487	235	285	2,967	2,892	75
October	3,487	235	285	2,967	2,892	75
November	3,503	235	301	2,967	2,892	75
December	3,519	235	301	2,983	2,892	91
January	3,519	235	301	2,983	2,892	91
February	3,519	235	301	2,983	2,892	91
March	3,491	235	301	2,955	2,864	91
2007-08 (to date)						
April	3,515	235	301	2,979	2,888	91
May	3,515	235	301	2,979	2,888	91
June	3,515	235	301	2,979	2,888	91
July	3,515	235	301	2,979	2,888	91
August	3,515	235	301	2,979	2,888	91
September	3,545	235	301	3,009	2,918	91
October	3,545	235	301	3,009	2,918	91
November	3,555	235	301	3,019	2,945	74
December	3,545	235	301	3,009	2,935	74

Young Offender Institutions: Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many institutions have been assessed to *(a)* be in full compliance, *(b)* be in partial compliance and *(c)* have failed to comply with the Youth Justice Board's code of practice for managing the behaviour of children and young people in the secure estate; and if he will make a statement. [181456]

Mr. Hanson: An exercise is currently under way to measure the extent to which establishments in the secure estate for children and young people are meeting the Youth Justice Board's code of practice. The results are expected to be known in April.

Young Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the implementation of Lord Carlile's recommendations arising from his February 2006 inquiry into children in custody; and if he will make a statement. [181451]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) published its response to Lord Carlile's inquiry in July 2006. Since that time, the YJB has been working hard to implement those of the recommendations that it accepted.

The YJB has implemented a code of practice across the secure estate for children and young people and is actively monitoring establishments' compliance. It has also improved monitoring and data collection arrangements and undertaken a safeguarding review which is due to be completed by April 2008. The YJB is developing a work force development programme for the young people's secure estate and is working with the Children's Workforce Development Council to agree core competencies for people working with children.

The YJB is also in the process of developing more sophisticated conflict resolution techniques. Pilots in restorative justice and therapeutic crisis intervention techniques are both under way. The YJB has also considerably increased the number of outdoor exercise facilities for young people.

Young Offenders: Mentally Ill

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders and juveniles in custody had one or more diagnosed mental health disorders in each of the last five years. [182132]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally.

In the study "Mental Health Needs and Effectiveness of Provision for Young Offenders in Custody and in the Community" (Professor Richard Harrington and Professor Sue Bailey, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2005) 31 per cent. were identified as having a mental health problem. A copy of the document is available in the Library.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider introducing a court diversion scheme for offenders aged 16 to 25 involving attendance on a course of military training as an alternative to court sentencing. [178215]

Mr. Hanson: The Government share the concerns about offending by young people and recognise that the military may have resources that could benefit young offenders. We are consulting with a range of organisations which have an interest in youth justice and the provision of youth justice services as part of the Youth Crime Action Plan which will be published in the summer, and will consider the feasibility of sending young offenders on training programmes by the armed services in light of the response to that consultation.

However, we do not think that a course of military training is the answer. Research from the United States indicates that simply adopting a military-style regime does not, of itself, reduce reoffending. The more successful programmes were those which supported their physically challenging and highly disciplined regimes with well developed education and training addressing offending behaviour.

We are planning to test out the referral of young adult offenders (18 to 25 years) to existing senior attendance centres through the conditional cautioning scheme, which diverts offenders who admit their offence from court in appropriate circumstances. The centres aim to assist these offenders to acquire and develop personal responsibility, self-discipline and new practical skills and interests within a structured and disciplined environment.

At present, the conditional cautioning scheme applies only to those aged 18 and above, but we are extending the scheme to young offenders aged 16 and 17 years old through provisions in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill currently before Parliament.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have *(a)* produced proposals for collaboration with other schools and *(b)* allowed their staff to teach in other local schools. [169307]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Schools are not required to submit proposals for collaboration. The Department does not collect information on staff from academies teaching in other schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies he has visited since becoming Secretary of State. [169834]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has visited the Bristol Brunel Academy; the Harris Girls' Academy, East Dulwich and the City of London Academy, Southwark since his appointment in June 2007.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are *(a)* co-sponsoring and *(b)* planning to co-sponsor academies; which academies each is sponsoring or co-sponsoring; on what date the (i) expression of interest was received and (ii) funding agreement was signed in each case; and if he will make a statement. [176722]

Jim Knight: The following local authorities have agreed to co-sponsor academies:

Cheshire county council
Corporation of London
Coventry city council
Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Kent county council
Manchester city council
Sunderland city council
Telford and Wrekin council
West Sussex county council

The following table shows which academies these local authorities are sponsoring and the date that the expression of interest was signed. The date that the funding agreement was signed is also given for the academies that have reached this stage.

Local authority	*Academy name (predecessor school if academy not yet named)*	*FA (if agreed)*	*EOI agreed*
Cheshire	TBC South Area Academy (Whitby High School, Cheshire Oaks High School and Ellesmere Port School)	n/a	25 July 2007
Corporation of London	City of London KPMG Academy	n/a	20 March 2006
Corporation of London	City of London Academy	n/a	20 April 2006
Corporation of London	City of London Southwark Academy	4 September 2003	1 March 2001
Coventry	Swanswell	n/a	30 January 2007
Kensington and Chelsea	The Chelsea Science Academy	30 March 2007	1 January 2005
Kent	Marlowe Academy	1 March 2004	1 November 2002
Kent	Isle of Sheppey	n/a	13 March 2006
Kent	Marsh Academy	24 July 2007	13 March 2006
Kent	TBC (Cornwallis), South Maidstone Federation	31 August 2007	1 March 2007
Kent	New Line Learning Academy, South Maidstone Federation	31 August 2007	1 March 2007
Manchester	Digital Communications Academy	n/a	22 March 2007
Manchester	Construction and the Built Environment Academy	n/a	18 December 2006
Manchester	Creative Media Academy—Girls	n/a	22 March 2007
Manchester	Creative Media Academy—Boys	n/a	22 March 2007
Manchester	Finance and Professional Service Academy	n/a	22 March 2007
Manchester	Business Enterprise Academy	n/a	18 December 2006
Manchester	Health Academy	n/a	18 December 2006
Sunderland	Pennywell/Quarry View Academy	1 August 2007	8 June 2006
Sunderland	Castle View Enterprise Academy	1 August 2007	8 June 2006
Sunderland	Red House Academy	1 August 2007	8 June 2006
Telford and Wrekin	Abraham Darby Academy	30 March 2007	11 April 2007
West Sussex	TBC (Littlehampton Community School)	n/a	26 July 2007
West Sussex	TBC (Boundstone Community College)	n/a	26 July 2007
West Sussex	TBC (Kings Manor Community College)	n/a	26 July 2007

Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimates are of the proportion of pupils in academies obtaining *(a)* five or more A* to C GCSEs and *(b)* five or more A* to C GCSEs, including Mathematics and English. [170196]

Jim Knight: The amended Key Stage 4 results for 2007 show that, excluding former CTCs, a total of 36 academies have GCSE results for 2007. The percentage of pupils in academies with five or more grades A*-C in 2007 was 43.7 per cent.; and the percentage with five or more grades A*-C including English and maths was 25.2 per cent.

For the 20 academies with results in both 2006 and 2007 the percentage achieving five plus A*-C increased by 8.1 percentage points which is more than three times the increase of 2.6 percentage points seen nationally (maintained, mainstream, CTCs and academies). If English and maths are included, results in academies have risen by 5.1 percentage points which is two and a half times greater than the increase of 1.8 percentage points seen nationally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have performance figures for five or more GCSE exams at grades A* to C, including mathematics and English, of below 30 per cent. in the most recent year for which figures are available. [163310]

Jim Knight: The latest school level GCSE data are for 2007. In that year, 26 out of the 40 academies with results had less than 30 per cent. of their pupils achieving five+ A* to C including English and maths.

Results for 2006 showed that 18 out of the 24 academies that had results in that year had less than 30 per cent. of their pupils achieving five+ A* to C including English and maths.

Children: Communication Skills

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to support joint working by local authorities and primary care trusts on assisting children with communication difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [178514]

(2) what support he will provide to parents through the Children's Plan in relation to children with speech, language and communication difficulties; [178515]

(3) what guidance he plans to issue to *(a)* parent support advisors and *(b)* local authorities to help them assist parents of children with communication difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [178516]

(4) if he will include support for children with speech, language and communication difficulties in the Parent's Charter; and if he will make a statement; [178517]

(5) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of joint working between local authorities and primary care trusts in *(a)* children's centres, *(b)* primary schools and *(c)* secondary schools with regard to services for children with communication difficulties. [178518]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* Effective language and communication skills are fundamental to children and young people's learning, development of social skills and fulfilment of their potential. On 11 September 2007, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health launched a major review of the provision of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs, to be led by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow).

The review will build on the investment and improvements to speech and language therapy and resources in the last 10 years. It will advise the Government on how the very best provision can be mirrored in all areas and how local services can work together so children and young people up to 19 years of age get the support they need, when they need it.

The review has been specifically asked to consider the clarity of accountability and responsibility for planning service delivery from national to local level across health, social services and education and to analyse good practice in joint working by schools, local authorities and PCTs, particularly in joint commissioning, including needs assessment and design of service delivery. As mentioned in the Children's Plan, it will also look at means of improving support and information to parents.

The review plans to submit an interim report in March 2008 and produce a final report by July 2008.

As regards parent support advisers, we have recently announced funding to expand their availability in every local authority. These advisers work with parents to improve children's behaviour and school attendance, offering advice with parenting, and providing support for families at the first sign a child or young person may be experiencing social, health or behavioural issues. Such support would include help where parents need it to address children's communication needs.

The Parents' Charter, as outlined in the Children's Plan, will describe the minimum level of support all parents can expect to receive from their local authority. We are currently working on options for the design of a charter and these will be outlined in the spring following discussion with the newly established Parents Panel.

Children: Travelling People

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children from the Traveller community are registered for primary education in England and Wales; [181006]

(2) how many children from the Traveller community are registered for secondary education in England and Wales. [181009]

Jim Knight: Figures refer to England only. In 2007 there were 2,840 pupils of Traveller of Irish heritage background and 5,370 pupils of Gypsy/Roma background at primary schools and there were 1,040 pupils who were of Traveller of Irish heritage background and 2,610 pupils of Gypsy/Roma background at secondary schools.

We know that this does not reflect the correct number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people in our schools as many parents and pupils from these communities fear bullying and prejudice if they identify themselves in school census data. The Department will publish "The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People" a guidance document for local authorities and schools in February 2008. This will offer a range of strategies to encourage Gypsy, Roma and Traveller parents and children to self-ascribe their ethnicity in school census data collection.

The figures have been taken from the annual publication "Schools and Pupils in England; January 2007 (Final)" which is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR.s000744/index.shtml.

For information on Wales I refer my hon. Friend to the Welsh Assembly.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179008]

Kevin Brennan: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, to be helpful; using a variety of information and data sources relating solely to DCSF headquarters, the following information can be provided.

DCSF currently sponsor seven telephone numbers with the prefix (a) 0870, and 10 telephone numbers with the prefix (b) 0845. Alternative geographic telephone numbers are available in each case.

Education: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the requirements are for approval by primary schools of local primary strategies for change, before formal agreement to a strategy by the Department; [181482]

(2) what specific issues his Department have informed Isle of Wight council are required to be addressed in the local primary strategy for change. [181484]

Jim Knight: To be approved by the Department the primary strategy for change should:

follow the format and content specified in the guidance document issued on 6 December:

demonstrate how the views of local stakeholders have been taken into account:

be endorsed by the council and the relevant Diocesan authorities and have the support of the majority of schools:

address areas of known concern, particularly those specified by the Department.

To date neither I nor my officials have had any contact with the council about specific areas of concern that we would expect to be addressed through the primary strategy for change. However, we have committed to giving early warning (by no later than the end of January 2008) to those local authorities to which this applies. Key considerations will be in relation to low performing schools or excess surplus places.

Free School Meals: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in each school in London receive free school meals. [180607]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils who are known to be eligible for and are claiming their free school meal entitlement in each school in London is given in the table. National level information on free school meals can be found in tables 3a, 3b and 3c of the September SFR 'Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007 (Final)', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

GCE A-Levels

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1271W, on GCE A-levels, what types of schools are in the category of other schools. [182609]

Jim Knight: The answer to PQ 177300 used the categories "Maintained Mainstream Schools", "CTC and Academies", "Independent Schools" and "Other Schools".

The "Other Schools" category includes the following schools:

Community Special Schools
Foundation Special Schools
Further Education Sector Colleges
Community Hospital Schools
Foundation Hospital Schools
Pupil Referral Unit
Armed Forces College.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children achieved five or more A to C grades at GCSE in *(a)* Newcastle local education authority schools and *(b)* England in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [180888]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The available information is given in the table.

Percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in England and Newcastle upon Tyne local authority who achieved five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A-C

	England	Newcastle local authority
2005	57.1	52.3
2006	59.2	55.8
2007	62.0	61.3

The figures have been taken from the Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England (Revised)' which is published annually. The latest figures, which relate to 2006/07, can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals entered for examinations did not obtain any GCSEs in each of the last three years; [182171]

(2) what number and proportion of pupils *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals obtained GCSEs at D grade or below or no GCSEs in 2006-07; [182241]

(3) how many pupils obtained GCSEs at D grade or below or no GCSEs in 2006-07; [182242]

(4) how many and what proportion of *(a)* A*, *(b)* A, *(c)* B and *(d)* C grades at GCSE went to pupils eligible for free school meals in 2007. [182300]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following table. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-2007 by free school meal eligibility and gender

	5+ A*-C							5+ A*-C including English and mathematics		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2005	2006	2007
Boys										
FSM	18.8	20.4	22.1	25.5	28.7	31.0	2.3	15.2	16.8	17.9

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-2007 by free school meal eligibility and gender

	5+ A*-C							5+ A*-C including English and mathematics		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2005	2006	2007
Non-FSM	48.2	49.9	50.8	53.8	56.2	58.3	2.1	42.1	43.4	44.8
Unclassified	11.9	0.2	35.4	39:0	42.3	43.6	1.3	28.2	31.3	32.2
All pupils	43.7	45.5	46.8	49.9	52.6	54.8	2.2	38.4	39.9	41.4
Girls										
FSM	27.3	28.5	30.2	34.4	37.4	40.0	2.6	20.8	22.5	24.3
Non-FSM	59.3	60.8	61.4	64.2	66.0	67.5	1.5	50.9	52.1	53.4
Unclassified	17.5	0.0	48.5	45.8	47.7	51.3	3.6	34.3	35.3	37.3
All pupils	54.6	56.1	57.0	60.0	62.2	63.9	1.7	46.7	48.2	49.6
Total										
FSM	23.0	24.4	26.1	29.9	33.0	35.5	2.5	180	19.6	21.1
Non-FSM	53.7	55.2	56.1	58.9	61.0	62.8	1.8	46.4	47.7	49.0
Unclassified	13.1	0.1	41.1	42.3	44.8	47.3	2.5	31.2	33.2	34.6
All pupils	49.0	50.7	51.9	54.9	57.3	59.3	2.0	42.5	44.0	45.4
FSM/ non-FSM gap										
Boys	29.4	29.5	28.7	28.3	27.5	27.3	-0.2	26.9	26.6	26.9
Girls	32.0	32.3	31.2	29.8	28.6	27.5	-1.1	30.1	29.6	29.1
Total	30.7	30.8	30.0	29.0	28.0	27.3	-0.7	28.4	28.1	27.9

	Any passes					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Boys						
FSM	85.2	85.7	89.8	91.2	92.7	93.6
Non-FSM	94.9	95.2	96.4	97.1	97;5	97.8
Unclassified	38.5	6.8	85.5	91.8	93.2	93.3
All pupils	93.1	93.5	95.4	96.3	96.8	97.2
Girls						
FSM	89.3	89.9	92.7	93.8	95.0	95.6
Non-FSM	96.1	96.6	97.5	98.1	98.3	98.5
Unclassified	46.8	6.4	97.6	94.6	94.1	95.8
All pupils	95.0	95.6	96.8	97.5	97.9	98.1
Total						
FSM	87.2	87.8	91.2	92.5	93.8	94.6
Non-FSM	95.5	95.9	96.9	97.6	97.9	98.1
Unclassified	40.4	6.7	90.8	93.2	93.7	94.5
All pupils	94.0	94.5	96.1	96.9	97.3	97.7
FSM/ non-FSM gap						
Boys	9.7	9.5	6.6	5.9	4.8	4.2
Girls	6.8	6.7	4.8	4.3	3.3	2.9
Total	8.3	8.1	5.7	5.1	4.1	3.5

Note:

Figures from 2005 are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4, earlier figures are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year). This information is not available for earlier years; 2002 was the first time pupil-level information was collected during the school census and matched to the attainment information.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what number and proportion of pupils who obtained five GCSEs at grade C or above in 2007 obtained them in English, mathematics, science, a foreign language and either history or geography. [182225]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority area had fewer that 25 per cent. of pupils achieving five A* to C grade passes at GCSE including mathematics and English in each of the last three years. [180463]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSE grades (including English and Mathematics) by local authority*

		2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
201	City of London	0	0	0
202	Camden	1	0	0
203	Greenwich	3	6	2
204	Hackney	1	1	0
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2	0	0
206	Islington	3	1	0
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0
208	Lambeth	2	1	1
209	Lewisham	2	4	2
210	Southwark	6	4	2
211	Tower Hamlets	3	4	1
212	Wandsworth	3	2	1
213	Westminster	3	0	1
301	Barking and Dagenham	2	1	0
302	Barnet	3	2	0
303	Bexley	5	2	2
304	Brent	1	1	3
305	Bromley	0	0	0

Number of maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSE grades (including English and Mathematics) by local authority*

		2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
306	Croydon	9	6	3
307	Ealing	1	0	1
308	Enfield	4	3	3
309	Haringey	5	5	4
310	Harrow	0	0	0
311	Havering	2	1	1
312	Hillingdon	4	3	0
313	Hounslow	2	1	0
314	Kingston upon Thames	1	0	0
315	Merton	3	6	1
316	Newham	1	1	1
317	Redbridge	1	0	0
318	Richmond upon Thames	1	0	1
319	Sutton	2	2	2
320	Waltham Forest	2	2	0
330	Birmingham	27	23	17
331	Coventry	4	3	1
332	Dudley	4	4	3
333	Sandwell	7	5	3
334	Solihull	2	3	3
335	Walsall	5	5	4
336	Wolverhampton	4	5	3
340	Knowsley	4	5	2
341	Liverpool	15	9	8
342	St. Helens	1	1	0
343	Sefton	5	4	3
344	Wirral	6	3	2
350	Bolton	4	2	2
351	Bury	0	0	0
352	Manchester	10	13	10
353	Oldham	7	6	3
354	Rochdale	3	2	2
366	Salford	5	6	4
356	Stockport	1	0	0
357	Tameside	5	3	1
358	Trafford	4	3	1
359	Wigan	5	2	1
370	Barnsley	5	4	5
371	Doncaster	7	5	4
372	Rotherham	3	1	1
373	Sheffield	9	6	7
380	Bradford	10	8	7
381	Calderdale	2	3	3
382	Kirklees	6	4	2
383	Leeds	12	10	10
384	Wakefield	4	1	1
390	Gateshead	2	0	1
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	4	3	3
392	North Tyneside	2	0	0
393	South Tyneside	2	0	0
394	Sunderland	4	5	3
800	Bath and North East Somerset	1	1	1
801	City of Bristol	10	10	6
802	North Somerset	0	0	1
803	South Gloucestershire	0	1	1
805	Hartlepool	1	1	1
806	Middlesbrough	5	5	4
807	Redcar and Cleveland	4	2	2
808	Stockton on Tees	3	4	2
810	City of Kingston-upon-Hull	7	6	5
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0
812	North East Lincolnshire	7	5	2
813	North Lincolnshire	3	2	1
815	North Yorkshire	2	2	2
816	York	1	1	0
820	Bedfordshire	2	2	2
821	Luton	2	2	0
825	Buckinghamshire	3	6	3
826	Milton Keynes	2	3	3
830	Derbyshire	5	3	4
831	City of Derby	3	4	4
835	Dorset	1	0	0
836	Poole	2	2	1
837	Bournemouth	3	3	2
840	Durham	7	3	3
841	Darlington	2	1	1
845	East Sussex	4	4	4
846	Brighton and Hove	1	2	1
850	Hampshire	4	7	5
851	Portsmouth	3	4	4
852	Southampton	5	6	3
855	Leicestershire	0	0	0
856	Leicester City	6	6	5
857	Rutland	0	0	0
860	Staffordshire	5	5	3
861	Stoke-on-Trent	7	6	4
865	Wiltshire	2	1	0
866	Swindon	1	1	0
867	Bracknell Forest	1	0	0
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0
869	West Berkshire	0	0	0
870	Reading	2	1	1
871	Slough	5	2	1
872	Wokingham	1	0	0
873	Cambridgeshire	2	1	1
874	Peterborough	4	3	1
875	Cheshire	7	6	4
876	Halton	1	2	1
877	Warrington	0	1	1
878	Devon	2	1	2
879	Plymouth	6	6	6
880	Torbay	1	1	0
881	Essex	15	13	11
882	Southend	4	2	1
883	Thurrock	3	1	3
884	Herefordshire	1	1	0
885	Worcestershire	3	2	1
886	Kent	32	35	26
887	Medway	7	6	6
888	Lancashire	16	10	8
889	Blackburn	0	2	1
890	Blackpool	4	1	0
891	Nottinghamshire	11	6	6
892	Nottingham City	12	11	7
893	Shropshire	0	0	0
894	Telford and Wrekin	4	6	4
908	Cornwall	0	0	0
909	Cumbria	8	4	8
916	Gloucestershire	6	6	7
919	Hertfordshire	6	4	3
921	Isle of Wight	0	0	0
925	Lincolnshire	23	16	12
926	Norfolk	7	8	7
928	Northamptonshire	7	6	6
929	Northumberland	1	1	1

Number of maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 25 per cent. of pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSE grades (including English and Mathematics) by local authority*

		2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
931	Oxfordshire	3	3	1
933	Somerset	0	2	2
935	Suffolk	1	2	2
936	Surrey	2	2	1
937	Warwickshire	5	3	1
938	West Sussex	3	2	1
Total		608	500	376

Gifted Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have been trained as lead teachers for gifted and talented education in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177214]

Jim Knight: The training programme for lead teachers in gifted and talented education began to be rolled out in September 2007. It is intended that every secondary school will have a lead teacher and that small groups of primary schools will share a lead teacher, though they can choose to have one of their own.

Data on numbers undertaking the initial face-to-face sessions will not be available until March 2008. Survey evidence suggests training is under way in over 80 per cent. of local authorities, though with some variation in the proportion of schools so far engaged.

The national strategies are monitoring participation carefully and, through local authorities, will strongly encourage all schools to participate.

ICT: National Vocational Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat a GNVQ in information technology in each year since 1997. [182231]

Jim Knight: The information available can be found in the following table, which is also published in the SFR "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)", which is available on the Department's website here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

These figures are based on results in GNVQs rather than attempts. Information on the number of pupils attempting these qualifications is not held centrally.

Time series of results in GNVQs in information technology 1996-97 to 2006-07

	Part I GNVQ		Full GNVQ	
	Intermediate	Full	Intermediate	Full
1996-97	—	—	15	31
1997-98	756	93	24	3
1998-99	1,270	245	199	22
1999-2000	1,909	277	294	41
2000-01	3,003	425	490	21
2001-02	17,174	2,278	10,825	316
2002-03	26,498	2,527	24,485	50
2003-04	—	—	34,681	938
2004-05	—	—	44,769	1,059
2005-06	—	—	54,476	924
2006-07	—	—	44,125	548

Note:

1. Figures from 2004-05 based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4; figures for earlier years are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year).

2. All figures are final, except 2005-06 and 2006-07, which are revised, figures for earlier years are based on 15-year-old pupils (age at start of academic year).

GNVQs represent a very limited percentage of the overall A* to C grades. Their contribution to the national overall pass rate in 2007 (60.3 per cent.) was just 3.3 percentage points. The contribution of academic GCSEs was 51.9 percentage points. The contribution of all GCSEs (including vocational GCSEs and short courses) was 53.9 percentage points. GNVQs have now been phased out. The last cohort sat the examination last summer. GNVQs will disappear from the Achievement and Attainment Tables from 2008.

Literacy

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of 11 and 16 year olds who were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [180786]

Jim Knight: We do not have a measure of functional literacy. Although level 4 is the target that we expect children to reach by the end of primary school, at level 3 pupils can read a range of texts accurately and independently; and their writing is organised, legible and clear. Figures show that 93 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved at least level 3 in English in 2007. Of the 7 per cent. of children not reaching level 3, many will have special educational needs which make the achievement of level 3 or level 4 in English a very challenging target.

Information on the attainment of pupils in Key Stage 2 English tests is shown in the table:

	Percentage of pupils at each level													
Date	A	T/D	B	N	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Percentage at level 4 or above	Percentage at level 5 or above
1996	4	0	—	0	0	1	7	39	41	7	0	100	49	7
1996	3	0	—	2	0	1	6	30	45	12	0	100	57	12
1997	3	0	4	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	26	48	16	0	100	63	16
1998	2	0	4	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	26	48	17	0	100	65	17
1999	2	0	3	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	20	48	22	0	100	71	22
2000	2	0	3	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29

	Percentage of pupils at each level													
Date	*A*	*T/D*	*B*	*N*	*W*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*Total*	*Percentage at level 4 or above*	*Percentage at level 5 or above*
2001	1	1	3	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2002	1	1	3	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2003	1	1	3	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	16	48	27	[1]—	100	75	27
2004	1	0	4	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	14	50	27	[1]—	100	78	27
2005	1	0	4	2	[1]—	[1]—	1	14	52	27	[1]—	100	79	27
2006	1	0	4	1	[1]—	[1]—	1	14	47	32	[1]—	100	79	32
2007	1	0	4	1			1	13	47	34	[1]—	100	80	34

[1] Levels W and 1 were valid in 1995 and 1996 only. Level 6 was valid from 1995-2002 only.

A—represents pupils who were absent

T—represents pupils working at the level of the assessment but unable to access the test

D—represents pupils disapplied from teacher assessment

B—represents pupils who were assessed by teacher assessment only.

N—represents pupils who took the tests but failed to register a Level

W—represents pupils who are "working towards" Level 1 but have not yet achieved the standards needed for Level 1.

Data cover all schools entering pupils for KS2 tests

There is no comparable nationally expected level of achievement in literacy for 16-year-olds (pupils at the end of Key Stage 4). The Government's current public service agreement target is for 60 per cent. of 16-year-olds to achieve five good GCSE grades (A*-C) or equivalent by 2008. Figures for 2007 published on 9 January show that this target has been met. But we are raising the bar and in future the target for the end of Key Stage 4 will be measured against the proportion of pupils achieving five grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics. The figures for pupils in England achieving this standard for each year since 1998 are given as follows:

	Percentage
1998	37.0
1999	38.6
2000	40.0
2001	40.7
2002	42.1
2003	41.9
2004	42.6
2005	44.3
2006	45.3
2007	460

In 2007 60.0 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English compared with 53.2 per cent. in 1998.

London Academy Edgware

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of student attainment at the London Academy; and if he will make a statement. [177681]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 54.6 per cent. of pupils at the London Academy achieved five or more passes at grades A-G in their GCSEs. This represents an increase of 3.7 percentage points over results for 2006—significantly higher than the national improvement rate of 2.6 percentage points.

When English and maths are included, 39.1 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more passes at grades A*-C—an increase of 7.1 percentage points over results for 2006—nearly four times the national improvement rate of 1.8 percentage points.

Music: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools do not offer music at GCSE. [182245]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on the subjects each school offers at GCSE.

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date English local authorities must submit their plans for primary school reorganisation; and if he will make a statement. [181793]

Jim Knight: To access funding for the primary capital programme, English local authorities must submit by 16 June 2008 a primary strategy for change. This document must set out how they will use available funding strategically to renew at least half of all primary schools by 2022-23. Guidance issued on 8 December 2007 states that the strategy should take into account the views and aspirations of local stakeholders and support the delivery of the national policy objectives set out in the Children's Plan. It will be for local authorities to determine whether this will require any reorganisation of primary school provision and, if so, to publish statutory proposals at the appropriate time.

Primary Education: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Isle of Wight council on possible Government intervention should existing primary schools not be closed. [181929]

Jim Knight: No Ministers or officials from the Department of Children, Schools and Families have had any discussions with the Isle of Wight council about intervention should existing primary schools not be closed under current reorganisation proposals.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what number and proportion of pupils *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals were given a fixed period exclusion from school in the latest year for which figures are available; [182243]

(2) how many pupils who had English as an additional language received a fixed period exclusion in the most recent period for which figures are available; [182275]

(3) what proportion of pupils given a fixed period exclusion were in schools with *(a)* more and *(b)* less than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as an additional language; [182286]

(4) what proportion of pupils given fixed period exclusions were in secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 1,000, *(b)* more than 1,000 and *(c)* more than 1,500 pupils in the latest year for which figures are available; [182287]

(5) in how many schools more than 20 per cent. of pupils have received more than one fixed period exclusion; [182288]

(6) how many pupils received more than 15 fixed period exclusions in the latest year for which the data are available. [182289]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Pupils: English Language

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils speak English as an additional language, broken down by their first language. [182276]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not held centrally.

As part of the School Census, schools are required to record first language data to identify those pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English; known or believed to be English; or unclassified. This information was published in the Statistical First Release: Schools and Pupils in England, and is provided in the table.

From January 2007, where a pupil's first language is not English, schools were given the option of using the short code list (as presented in the table) or the extended language code set (which consists of over 300 language codes). Not all schools have chosen to use the extended language codes. Therefore the Department does not hold complete data for actual first language.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1] [2] [3]: Number and percentage of pupils by first language, as at January 2007—England

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above					
	Primary schools[1]		Secondary schools[1]		Special Schools[2]	
	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[4]	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[4]	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[4]
First language is known or believed to be other than English	447,480	13.5	342,240	10.5	8,390	9.9
First language is known or believed to English	2,855,830	86.4	2,924,050	89.5	76,280	90.1
Unclassified[5]	1,070	0.0	1,860	0.1	20	0.0
Total[6]	3,304,370	100.0	3,268,160	100.0	84,680	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes General Hospital Schools.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] The number of pupils by their first language expresed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[5] Information was not sought or revised.
[6] Pupils of compulsory school age and above.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on average per pupil in *(a)* state schools and *(b)* private schools in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [180787]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out in the following table. As my Department does not collect information for the independent sector, information for independent day school fees are taken from the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Census.

Per pupil funding

Cash (£)

	(a) State schools	*(b)* Independent day schools: average annual day fees—academic year	
	Revenue and capital funding—financial year	ISC's old methodology	ISC's new methodology
2002-03	3,650	6,550	—

Per pupil funding

Cash (£)

	(a) *State schools*	*(b)* *Independent day schools: average annual day fees—academic year*	
	Revenue and capital funding—financial year	*ISC's old methodology*	*ISC's new methodology*
2003-04	4,100	7,300	—
2004-05	4,400	7,650	—
2005-06	4,750	8,150	—
2006-07	5,100	8,800	8,100

Notes:
1. Independent school figures taken from the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Census.
2. ISC figures are on an academic year basis while state school funding is on a financial year basis.
3. In 2006-07, the ISC introduced a new methodology for calculating average fees. Both are shown.
4. Figures rounded to nearest £50.

As set out in Budget 2006, it is the Government's aim, over time and adjusting for inflation, to increase levels of maintained school funding to average private sector day school levels in that year, 2005-06. Our private sector target is an estimated £8,000 per pupil in independent day schools in 2005-06 compared with total revenue and capital funding per pupil in the maintained sector of £4,750. We have so far increased maintained sector funding to £5,550 per pupil this year, which is £5,300 in real terms at 2005-06 prices.

As a result of the comprehensive spending review settlement for education, total per pupil revenue and capital funding will rise to £6,600 in 2010-11, or £5,750 per pupil in real terms at 2005-06 prices. This means that between 2005-06 and the end of the CSR period we will have raised maintained sector funding by £1,000 per pupil in real terms, equivalent to closing the gap with the private sector target by 30 per cent.

Progress over future spending reviews will depend on the Government's fiscal position; demographic change; and progress by schools in continuing to deliver improvements in results and wider support for parents and pupils.

Budget 2006 also announced a separate commitment to close the gap between the state sector and private sector levels of per pupil capital investment. The schools capital settlement for 2008-11 fully closes this gap by providing for maintained sector capital investment to rise to £1,110 per pupil by 2010-11 which is in line with 2005-06 private sector levels, adjusted for inflation.

School Meals: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school dinners were served in Norfolk schools in each of the last 12 months. [182099]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not collected by this Department. The School Food Trust carries out an annual survey of school meal take-up. The second annual survey was conducted in April 2007; and a further survey will take place in 2008. The information collected is collated by region ~~not by~~ local authority.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest projections are of pupil numbers in *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools in each local authority area in each year until 2025; what pupil numbers were in each category in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [180688]

Jim Knight: The Department has published short-term forecasts of local authority pupil numbers which are used to underpin the indicative allocation of the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) over the three years of the CSR period to 2010-11. These forecasts are broken down into three age groupings: under-fives, five-10 and 11 to 15-year-olds and are available on teachernet at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/12223/DSG_Pupil_Projections_2008-11_23_Nov.xls

The available information on the number of pupils at primary and secondary schools in each local authority is published annually by the Department. From 2005 the figures can be found in the Statistical First Release "DCSF: Schools and Pupils in England," the latest of which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

Figures for 2004 and earlier were published in the Statistical Volume "Statistics of Education Schools in England 2004 Edition", which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml.

Equivalent publications are available for earlier years. Copies of both the forecasts and pupil numbers have been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there are in each local authority in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [181794]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus places through an annual survey. The most recent published data relate to the position at January 2007 and show the breakdown of surplus places by local authority in primary and secondary schools. The data are available at http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/fallingschoolrolls/context/stats/ and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what options other than closing schools are available to local education authorities to address an excess of school places. [182806]

Jim Knight: Surplus school places can represent a poor use of resources. Local authorities must examine the benefits and drawbacks of redeploying resources tied up in surplus school places for the wider benefit of pupils in the area.

Individual authorities must determine how to reduce levels of surplus places, but reducing surplus need not always mean school closures. Capacity can be reduced by removing temporary accommodation, consolidating split-site schools, or by rationalising school space. Rationalisation can involve adapting accommodation for alternative use and broadening the services their schools offer in line with the likely future pattern of children's services and the needs of local communities. We also encourage schools to pool resources through working more closely together either through federation or close collaboration.

Advice on the range of options available to local authorities to tackle primary falling rolls can be found at www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/fallingschoolrolls/ and a copy has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Armed Forces

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the annual School Census in 2008 will include collection of data on children of families in military service. [179551]

Jim Knight: The School Census is on a termly basis and is carried out in spring, summer and autumn.

A data item new for 2008 is being collected, namely 'Service Children in Education Indicator'; which indicates if a child has a parent or parents who are service personnel, serving in regular HM Forces military units of all forces and exercising parental care and responsibility. This data item is collected in the spring census only.

Schools: Flags

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on the display of flags. [180464]

Jim Knight: No guidance has been issued to schools on this issue. Schools are free to fly the Union flag on any day they choose; but it is for individual schools to decide whether to do so or not.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to safeguard effective rural school provision. [181156]

Jim Knight: Local authorities, as commissioners of educational services, are responsible for planning school places in their area. They have a duty to ensure that there is sufficient supply to meet local needs, and that high quality education is provided in a cost effective way.

Because we recognise that rural schools play an important role within their local communities we have taken, and will continue to take, measures to support both schools and communities in rural areas. For example, in 1998 we introduced a presumption against closing rural primary schools which means that, although we cannot guarantee that no rural school will ever close, the case for closure needs to be strong and clearly in the best interests of education provision in the area. In the Education and Inspections Act 2006 we introduced a statutory duty on those proposing to close a rural primary school to consult parents of pupils registered at the school; the district council for the area in which the school is situated; if the local authority is a county council, any parish council for the area in which the school is situated; and any other relevant person(s).

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of children gained GCSE above grade C in mathematics, science or science related subjects in *(a)* England and *(b)* the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in each year since 1997; [180889]

(2) in how many schools in Newcastle upon Tyne *(a)* under 20 per cent., *(b)* under 30 per cent. and *(c)* under 40 per cent. of children gained five or more A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2007-08; and what percentage of the GCSE candidates in Newcastle local education authority attended those schools in each year; [180890]

(3) how many and what percentage of children in local education authority maintained schools left school with *(a)* no qualifications and *(b)* no GCSEs above grade D in each local education authority in the North East of England in each year since 2001. [180892]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in the first year of secondary education in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local education authority were entitled to free school meals in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181921]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library. This shows the number and percentage of pupils following national curriculum year 7 (the usual year of entry to secondary education) known to be eligible for free school meals.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school leavers in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007 attained GCSE grade A in (i) English language and (ii) mathematics; and what proportion of school leavers attained grade A in each subject at O-Level in the last year of that examination. [180172]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer the first part of the question is in the following table.

				Percentage
	1996-97		*2006-07*	
	*A**	*A*	*A**	*A*
English Language	[illegible]	7.4	4.2	12.2
Mathematics	1.5	6.7	4.7	10.9

Notes:
1 The 1996-97 figures relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August 1996.
2 The 2006-07 figures relate to all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

The last academic year O-levels were taken was 1986-87.

O-level results are not available by grade for each subject; results were published giving the number of pupils achieving O-level grades A-G or GSE grade 1. The proportions for 1986-87 are given in the following table as well as the percentage of pupils achieving GCSE grades A-C in 2006-07:

		Proportion/Percentage
	1986-87	*2006-07*
English Language	46.2%	58.7%
Mathematics	37.1%	53.5%

Sources:-
1. The 1986-87 figures were taken from 'Statistics of Leavers—CSE and GCE—ISSN 0266-2728.
2. The 1996-97 figures were taken from 'Statistics of Education—Public Examinations, GCSE/GNVQ and GCE in England, 1997' - ISBN 0-11-271037-9.
3. The 2006-2007 figures have been derived from the achievement and attainment tables and taken from the revised 2007 SFR, published on 9 January 2008, found at the following link: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when every secondary school pupil will have a personal tutor throughout their school years; [180469]

(2) what funding will be provided to enable every secondary school pupil to have a personal tutor throughout their school years; [180470]

(3) what plans there are to give every secondary school pupil a personal tutor throughout their school years. [180471]

Jim Knight: Personal tutors will be members of staff who take responsibility for monitoring the academic and personal development of individual pupils in the round; working with their parents and other professionals to co-ordinate a tailored package of support which helps all pupils make the best possible progress. The tutors were announce in the Children's Plan, and build on recommendations made in "2020 Vision"—the report of the Teaching and Learning in 2020 Review led by Christine Gilbert and published in January 2007—that every secondary school pupil should have a 'learning guide'.

Our aim is that every secondary school pupil will have access to a personal tutor by the end of the Comprehensive Spending Review period (March 2011). Funding for personal tutors is provided within schools' base budgets, via local authorities, through the Dedicated Schools Grant's Personalised Learning strand. The 2008-11 CSR provides £1.6 billion within schools' base budgets to ensure that schools have the capacity to deliver Personalised Learning as a whole, including personal tutors.

This work is in the planning and research stage. We are currently undertaking a programme of school visits to inform potential delivery models and decisions about piloting.

Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* 1 year, *(b)* 2 years, *(c)* 3 years, *(d)* 4 years and *(e)* 5 years were identified as having a special educational need in each year since 2001, broken down by local authority. [181861]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of young people who will be studying for diplomas in 2013; and if he will make a statement. [181791]

Jim Knight: Initial modelling suggests that around one in four 14 to 19-year-old learners will be undertaking one of the first 14 diplomas from September 2013. This is not a target, but a working model to help with planning, and it will be updated regularly to reflect current information.

Specialist Schools: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Barnet have specialist status; what the specialisms are in each case; what funding was made available to each in the latest period for which figures are available; what outstanding applications for specialist status there are from schools in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [181968]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the information requested. There are 19 maintained secondary schools in Barnet local authority, 18 of which have specialist status. There are no outstanding applications for specialist status.

The Government remain committed to the Specialist Schools Programme as a means of raising attainment and achievement for all secondary aged pupils.

School	*Main specialism*	*Second specialism*	*Leading option*	*Total grant allocated (£)*
Ashmole school	Science	Music	—	215,271
Bishop Douglass school, Finchley	Science	—	—	58,032
Christ's college, Finchley	M&C	—	—	124,872

School	*Main specialism*	*Second specialism*	*Leading option*	*Total grant allocated (£)*
Copthall school	B&E	Language	—	219,000
East Barnet school	Technology		—	134,289
Finchley Catholic high school	B&E	—	—	129,000
Friern Barnet school	Arts	—	—	98,169
Hasmonean high school	B&E	—	—	129,000
Hendon school	Language	—	—	166,740
Mapledown school	SEN Cognition and Learning	—	—	[1]0
Mill Hill county high school	Technology	—	—	194,016
Oak Lodge school	SEN Cognition and Learning	—	—	35,000
Queen Elizabeth's Girls' school	Arts	—	—	129,000
Queen Elizabeth's school, Barnet	Music	—	—	129,000
St James' Catholic high school	Science and sports	—	—	129,000
St Michael's Catholic grammar school	Language	—	—	125,202
The Compton school	Technology		Training school	169,521
The Henrietta Barnett school	Music	—	—	54,522
The Ravenscroft school and technology college	Technology	—	—	113,133
Whitefield school	Sports	—	—	104,748

[1] Designated from 1 September 2008. Will receive £35,000 in 2008-09.

Staff in Schools: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers have been employed in Enfield, North constituency in each of the last 10 years; and how many were employed in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; [180936]

(2) how many teaching assistants have been employed in the London borough of Enfield in each of the last 10 years; and how many were employed in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [180937]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Enfield, North constituency and England, January 1998 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent number of teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Enfield, North constituency and England: January 1998 to 2007

	Teachers			
	Nursery/Primary		*Secondary*	
January of each year	*Enfield, North constituency*	*England*	*Enfield, North constituency*	*England*
1998	380	184,480	560	184,470
1999	380	185,800	560	186,310
2000	400	187,000	560	188,380
2001	410	189,690	570	193,340
2002	430	193,090	600	200,450
2003	420	191,090	610	203,920
2004	430	188,740	620	205,820
2005	430	188,110	650	209,040
2006	460	190,480	660	210,610
2007	440	190,290	680	210,220

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools employed in the London borough of Enfield and England: January 1998 to 2007.

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in the London borough of Enfield local authority and England: January 1998 to 2007

	Teaching Assistants[1]			
	Nursery/Primary		*Secondary*	
January of each year	*London borough of Enfield*	*England*	*London borough of Enfield*	*England*
1998	200	44,830	10	8,970
1999	200	46,650	20	10,590
2000	390	53,380	30	12,450
2001	460	65,500	30	15,470
2002	610	71,780	90	19,530

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in the London borough of Enfield local authority and England: January 1998 to 2007

	Teaching Assistants[1]			
	Nursery/Primary		Secondary	
January of each year	London borough of Enfield	England	London borough of Enfield	England
2003	650	82,280	100	22,260
2004	720	89,160	110	25,340
2005	770	97,910	140	29,980
2006	840	99,040	170	33,490
2007	940	105,770	190	35,650

[1] Teaching assistant figures include special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Teachers

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's definition of a bad teacher is. [177026]

Jim Knight: Performance management arrangements, introduced for teachers in England, in September 2007, are designed to establish a clear and consistent process of planning and assessment so that teachers and head teachers understand what is expected of them, and that support teachers and head teachers in addressing their professional development needs. The revised arrangements introduce a more structured approach to the planning meeting at the beginning of the year, including clarity about how performance will be assessed at the end.

In order for performance management to operate in a fair and transparent way, teachers must know what is required of them before any assessment can be made. The framework of professional standards for teachers, introduced in September 2007, helps to provide this context. The standards are statements of a teacher's professional attributes; professional knowledge and understanding, and professional skills. They provide clarity of the expectations at each career stage and support teachers in identifying their professional development needs. The framework for standards will, therefore, provide a backdrop to the revised performance management arrangements.

Effective management, clear expectations and appropriate support are key factors in addressing weaknesses in performance. Ongoing professional dialogue will enable any such issues to be identified early, thereby avoiding the need for formal capability procedures in most cases. Where a teacher's capability is still in question after all normal avenues have been exhausted then formal capability procedures should be instigated, in line with locally agreed practice.

Teachers: Stress

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of teacher absence were caused by stress-related illnesses in each local education authority in each of the last five years. [179657]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available by type of illness.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 29 January 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether he plans to make BlackBerry machines available for use by hon. Members. [181570]

Nick Harvey: Personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Smartphones are available to Members via PICT, the parliamentary ICT service. This service has been available since June 2006. The devices and their voice and data costs are met by individual Members while the supporting infrastructure is funded centrally. The product range is regularly reviewed and at present four different devices can be selected. BlackBerries are not available under this service because none of the responses received to the full EU tender proposed that product.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of bullying were reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182843]

Mr. Woodward: The NIO has procedures in place for dealing with complaints of harassment and bullying. Where staff wish complaints to be dealt with informally, they can approach their line management, but no central record is maintained of such approaches. During the last 12 months there has been only one formal complaint of bullying reported in the NIO core, and none in its agencies.

Until recently, all staff joining the NIO underwent mandatory equal opportunities awareness training as part of their induction, which included guidance on appropriate behaviour in the workplace. This has been replaced by a new diversity course, concentrating on treating others with dignity, which is also currently being rolled out to the whole Department.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance on *(a)* loans and *(b)* donations has been sent to regulated donees by the Electoral Commission in the last 12 months. [182799]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it published new guidance on donations for regulated donees in Northern Ireland in October 2007. The Commission wrote to all MPs, MEPs and MLAs representing Northern Ireland or Northern Ireland constituencies, setting out the broad scope of the donation controls and alerting them to publication of the guidance.

Additionally, it wrote to the Labour leadership and deputy leadership candidates in May 2007 and the Liberal Democrat leadership candidates in October 2007. These letters summarised the donees' requirements to record, check permissibility and report in relation to both donations and loans.

The Commission regularly gives advice on request to regulated donees on particular issues related to loans and donations.

Recruitment of Chairman

Ann Clwyd: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what are the arrangements for the recruitment of a new Chairman of the Commission when Mr Sam Younger's term expires on 1 January 2009. [183627]

Peter Viggers: Under section 3 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the appointment of the Chairman of the Electoral Commission is subject to the agreement of Mr. Speaker. The Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission has proposed a panel to recommend the appointment and Mr. Speaker has invited the following to serve on this panel:

Baroness Fritchie (Chair)

Cindy Butts (nominated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments)

Sir Neil McIntosh

David Norgrove

Peter Viggers MP

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Casualties

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of HM Armed Forces were killed in off-duty road traffic accidents in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [182789]

Derek Twigg: Information on the detailed causes of deaths to UK regular armed forces personnel is only currently available up to December 2006. The numbers killed in off-duty road traffic accidents (on the public highway) in each year between 2002 and 2006 are shown in the following table.

Deaths due to off-duty road traffic accidents: UK regular armed forces, numbers, 2002-06

	Number
2002	55
2003	40
2004	46
2005	44
2006	49
Total	234

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel were deployed on operations at the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by location of deployment. [181208]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 14 January 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	13,480
Of which:	
Afghanistan	6,800
Iraq	4,600
At Sea	620
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	350
Oman	180
Kosovo	120
Bahrain	60
Bosnia	10
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total budget was for Service Children's Education schools in each of the last five years. [177529]

Derek Twigg: Service Children's Education's overall R-DEL (Resourced Departmental Expenditure Limit) Control Totals (CTs) for each of the past five years was as follows:

	£ Million
2003-04	65.634
2004-05	73.705
2005-06	74.769
2006-07	75.600
2007-08	73.347

The reduction in Resource Control Totals between 2006-07 and 2007-08 reflects the internal transfer of responsibility and funding for Estates Maintenance to Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) with effect from 1 September 2006.

Civilians: Pay

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British citizens employed overseas at Ministry of Defence establishments receive wages lower than the UK minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [182792]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are no UK-based civilians (UKBCs) employed overseas at Ministry of Defence establishments in receipt of pay below the UK minimum wage. MOD does employ locally engaged civilians (LECs) overseas. The majority of civilian personnel employed overseas by MOD are LECs and not civil servants. LECs are recruited locally, and may be nationals of the host country, expatriates or accompanying dependants of MOD personnel (UKBCs or service personnel). LECs are employed on terms and conditions analogous with local employment law and market forces, and not those of the UK.

Clause 21

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means he has implemented Clause 21 of the military covenant. [172887]

Derek Twigg: The Military Covenant is a stand-alone paragraph contained within the Army Doctrine (Land Operations); it does not contain any clauses.

Under the War Pensions Scheme, the Department has the discretionary power in article 21 of the Service Pensions Order to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of the medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of a member of the armed forces that arise wholly or mainly arise as a result of the disablement due to service where it is not provided for free of charge under other legislation of the United Kingdom. This power predates the NHS and is now little used. The two main areas of expenditure under this provision are (1) the individual costs of war pensioners undergoing 'remedial treatment' at homes run by Combat Stress and (2) treatment costs for war pensioners who reside overseas.

Departmental Computers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225, on MoD (data loss), how many of the 347 laptops stolen or lost from the Ministry of Defence since 2004 have been recovered. [182359]

Des Browne: As a result of the theft of the Royal Navy laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all computers lost or stolen since 2003. This investigation is under way and I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and arrange for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security breaches regarding access to personal data have occurred within his Department in each year since 1997. [170832]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's security incident reporting system does not currently identify breaches relating to access to personal data as a separate category. We are now putting in place arrangements to identify such incidents on the database.

Educational Support

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Oral Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1195, on educational support, when the service indicator was introduced into the annual school census; and if he will make a statement. [182427]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The service indicator on the annual school census in England was introduced in January 2008.

Iraq: Hercules Aircraft

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 452W, on Iraq: Hercules aircraft, when his Department plans to implement the recommendations (g) and (k) of the Board of Inquiry report. [173855]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Recommendation G stated that the Hercules C130K should be fitted with a basic aircraft data recorder. This is not a safety feature but an air accident investigation tool.

This recommendation was not pursued following a cost-benefit analysis which concluded that it was not cost-effective given the time it would take to fit the equipment compared with the expected out of service date for Hercules.

For recommendation K, a draft Information Exchange Agreement on the routine sharing of transport aircraft vulnerability data has been passed to the US. We are working to bring this work to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Iraq: Military Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on Iraq: military equipment, what personnel training and mentoring of Iraqi forces, UK troops are providing at *(a)* brigade, *(b)* division and *(c)* battle group level. [181712]

Des Browne: The provision of training, mentoring and monitoring of Iraqi Security Forces is a primary task for UK forces in Iraq, with training provided to 10th and 14th Iraqi Army Divisions at divisional, brigade and battalion level. At the divisional level, training and mentoring focuses on the appropriate structures required of a divisional HQ.

At brigade level, it focuses on the practicalities and execution of joint operations, while the battalion level receives dedicated infantry training.

Training is also provided to The Department for Border Enforcement and the Iraqi Police Service.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days of rest and recuperation leave personnel deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan lost on average as a result of delays in the airbridge in each of the last 12 months. [182326]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 257, to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton).

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have been deployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan over the last 12 months with full-strength bearing; and how many troops were deployed. [R] [182606]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* All units deploy at the required strength for the tasks they are asked to fulfil during their operational tour.

Information on the number of troops from each unit which deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in the last 12 months is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency officers is in supporting the British armed forces. [182317]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) is the uniformed, unarmed element forming part of the larger Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency. The MGS provide an unarmed guarding service to Defence personnel and property.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which locations Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency officers have replaced Ministry of Defence Police officers since 2003. [182318]

Derek Twigg: There is one recorded instance since 2003 where the Ministry of Defence Guard Service have directly replaced the Ministry of Defence Police at a Defence establishment. This was at DSDA Longtown, Cumbria, in 2004.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the recruiting goals for Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency were in each year since 1997. [182316]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) has no set annual targets for recruitment. Instead it keeps recruiting requirements under constant review and recruits sufficient MGS officers to meet the numbers required to provide an unarmed guarding function across the defence estate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many premises of each type in each region have *(a)* an extended and *(b)* a 24-hour alcohol licence; [181683]

(2) how many and what percentage of applications for extended alcohol licences have been rejected since the coming into force of the Licensing Act 2003. [181684]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Licensing Act 2003 there are no nationally set prescribed hours. Premises licence holders may apply to vary their hours; however, each application has to be considered locally on its merit and may be rejected. This information is not held centrally

Data collected for the latest DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, were published on 8 November 2007 and show that, between April 2006 and March 2007, of the 162,053 total premises licences 5,126 were for 24 hours. It should be noted that, of these, 2,493 are hotels which only serve private guests and friends of guests. These premises were able to serve guests for 24 hours under the old licensing regime.

A breakdown by region is as follows:

Region	*24 hour licences*
East midlands	221
East of England	400
London	417
North-east	135
North-west	1,511
South-east	685
South-west	1,095
Wales	179
West Midlands	279
Yorkshire and the Humber	204

Note:
Information was not provided by every licensing authority.

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 22 January 2008, what his Department's estimate is of the proportion of the total population that participated in artistic activities in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [182701]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: According to the Taking Part survey, 77 per cent. of all adults in England have taken part in the arts in the last 12 months. 66 per cent. of people attended arts events, 52 per cent. of people participated in an arts activity, and 43 per cent. did both.

Arts: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which recurrently funded organisations are to receive *(a)* a reduced grant and *(b)* no grant following the conclusions of the Arts Council England's review, broken down by Government office region. [182425]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

The arm's length principle ensures that the arts are not 'run' by the Government and are not subject to political interference Individual funding decisions are taken independently by people with expert knowledge of the sector.

The Arts Council have said the following in response to requests to see the names of the organisations listed in their proposals:

> "Our proposals for non-renewal of funding cannot be made available until our National and Regional Councils make final decisions. This information is considered confidential and commercially sensitive during the response period. This is especially so in the case of a recommendation that might be overturned by the National Council or a Regional Council. Regularly funded organisations who have a right to respond to our recommendation, should be able to do so freely without fear that our intention to reduce or stop their funding is potentially unnecessarily, and without their consent, released into the public domain. A full announcement will be made at the beginning of February."

Arts: TBR

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid the consultants TBR to conduct the arts survey announced on 22 January. [182801]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The research project conducted by TBR will cost £75,000. DCMS is paying £45,000 and Arts Council England is contributing £30,000.

The project aims to:

map the voluntary arts sector in England

assess opportunities for growth in the sector and

consider the impact of adult and community learning on participation in the arts and crafts.

The report will be published in the summer.

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role he expects the heritage sector to play in the delivery of his Department's public service agreement targets. [181923]

Margaret Hodge: The heritage sector plays a crucial role in ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy and participate in the cultural life of the nation. The Taking Part Survey estimates that 70 per cent. of people visited a historic site at least once during the past 12 months.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181845]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has devised a plan which has identified potential savings of 562 tonnes of CO_2 by March 2009.

In particular, the Department plans to replace its gas boilers with ones which are more efficient. This will significantly reduce our carbon emissions. We are seeking advice from the Carbon Trust on this.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180565]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department is undertaking the following information technology projects:

Project	*(a) Start date*	*(b) Original planned completion date*	*(c) Curtent expected completion date*	*(d) Planned cost*	*(e) Current estimated cost*
Electronic document management system	October2007	October 2008	October 2008	£1.5 million	£1.5 million
Migration of Department's websites to new content management system	February2008	June 2008	June 2008	£250,000	£250,000
Migration of ICT services to a new outsourcing contract	January 2008	May 2008	May 2008	£647,000	£647,000

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179794]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) The following items were procured by the Department in the last five years bearing the Departments branding:

250 pens in 2003;

200 mugs in 2003;

13 T-shirts in 2007.

(b) The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

English Heritage

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* English Heritage's policies on the conservation of stone in English cathedrals; and if he will make a statement. [182190]

Margaret Hodge: Works to listed cathedral buildings are exempted from the need to obtain listed building consent, on account of the structures and procedures put in place by the Church of England to agree such works. Decisions as to how works are undertaken are made by Church bodies.

The Department's listed places of worship grant scheme supports repairs to English cathedrals by making grants equivalent to the VAT incurred. English Heritage also makes grants towards cathedral repairs.

My Department looks to English Heritage to provide specialist advice on matters of conservation.

Football

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial commitments were made to the Government by the premier league as part of the recent broadcasting agreement. [181783]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have had a number of discussions with the premier league about the funding contribution to good causes following their broadcasting agreement.

These discussions are nearing completion and we intend formally to announce the detail of the funding in the near future.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been distributed by the Heritage Lottery Fund in each year since 1995, expressed in 2007-08 prices. [181990]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The information requested is as follows:

Heritage lottery fund (HLF) awards by financial year, expressed in 2007-08 prices

Year of award	*Value of awards*	*RPI year-average*	*Value of awards at 2007-08 average prices*[1]
1995-96	195,267,557	150.2	270,150,455
1996-97	476,899,459	155.4	637,707,256
1997-98	325,228,374	158.8	425,559,885
1998-99	351,143,796	163.8	445,581,482
1999-2000	268,842,743	166.4	335,831,211
2000-01	333,566,630	171.3	404,602,466
2001-02	320,722,772	173.8	383,464,856
2002-03	345,834,965	177.5	404,832,442
2003-04	329,487,834	182.5	375,216,177
2004-05	367,638,574	188.2	406,033,993
2005-06	318,650,170	193.1	342,893,049

Heritage lottery fund (HLF) awards by financial year, expressed in 2007-08 prices

Year of award	*Value of awards*	*RPI year-average*	*Value of awards at 2007-08 average prices*[1]
2006-07	315,161,358	200.3	326,935,004
Total	3,948,444,232	—	4,758,808,276

[1] Based on the retail prices index used by HLF Finance Dept for investment management.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 511W, on Members: allowances, what rules in the Green Book apply to claims against the additional cost allowance for the costs of local authority charges for the collection of household rubbish; and if she will make a statement. [182201]

Helen Goodman: The rules in the Green Book allow hon. Members to stay overnight away from home in order to perform their parliamentary duties for which appropriate costs are reimbursed.

The Members Estimate Committee will review the Green Book in the light of the debate on Members' pay, pensions and allowances on 24 January 2008. Powers in the Climate Change Bill for local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes for domestic waste are not yet in use. Consequently, no such claims have been received or paid. However, if charges are introduced as part of such schemes, the House will review whether it is appropriate to reimburse waste charges incurred by Members, given their purpose to act as a financial incentive to increase recycling and reduce the total amount of waste or whether, as with the congestion charge, Members are required to make all payments themselves.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Community Care: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been available for community care grants nationally in each year since 1997. [183138]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Financial year	*Community Care Grant budget in Great Britain (£ million)*
1997-98	97
1998-99	98
1999-2000	98
2000-01	100
2001-02	103
2002-03	108
2003-04	118
2004-05	128
2005-06	138
2006-07	141
2007-08	141

Note:

There is also a small contingency reserve (which has varied between £0.5 million and £2 million) which is available to cover unforeseen spending, for example, on flooding.

Source:

Annual reports on the Social Fund by the Secretary of State for Social Security/Work and Pensions.

Housing Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [180615]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information for Great Britain has been placed in the Library. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to maintain levels of *(a)* income support and *(b)* jobseekers allowance of those recipients of such benefits who have lodged appeals against the removal of incapacity benefit. [182344]

Mr. Plaskitt: Incapacity benefit claimants found capable of work and who appeal the decision may either claim jobseeker's allowance, which is paid at the full personal allowance rate but minus any disability premiums, unless they qualify for those premiums on alternative grounds; or claim income support, but at a reduced rate. If on appeal the decision is overturned, benefit will be restored in full from the appropriate date.

We currently have no plans to change these rules.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against incapacity benefit removal were made in each year since 2003; what proportion of such appeals were successful; and how much income support or jobseekers allowance was not paid to appellants who were subsequently successful. [182372]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

From April 2003 until March 2007 261,660 appeals have been received by the Appeal Tribunal against decisions not to award incapacity benefit. 92,977 of the appeal outcomes were in favour of the appellant.

Incapacity benefit (all cases)

		Received	*Cleared in favour*
SSCSA	April 2002 to March 2003	61,148	19,631
	April 2003 to March 2004	62,970	22,253
	April 2004 to March 2005	62,609	21,144
	April 2005 to March 2006	63,646	23,680
	April 2006 to March 2007	72,435	25,900

Figures for the amount of income support and jobseeker's allowance not paid to appellants who were subsequently successful are not held by the Department for Work and Pensions because it is not possible to cross-reference incapacity benefit (IB) appeals with the data on income support (IS) and jobseekers allowance (JSA) recipients. To provide a figure the Department for Work and Pensions would need to identify which IB appellants subsequently claimed IS and JSA and they are unable to do this with the data they hold.

Local Housing Allowance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support local housing allowance recipients without bank accounts will receive after April 2008. [178603]

Mr. Plaskitt: The evaluation evidence from the Local Housing Allowance Pathfinders showed clearly that money advice services provided by local authorities were working well. With help from local authorities, and partners such as welfare organisations, credit unions and banks themselves, around 96 per cent. of customers in Pathfinder areas now have a bank or building society account.

The evaluation evidence also shows that around a quarter of customers in Pathfinder areas said that they opened the account so that they could receive payment of the housing allowance. We are sharing the lessons learnt through the Pathfinders during national rollout to help those without access to a bank account to open one.

We are also encouraging local authorities to ensure that payment facilities are available for the small proportion of customers who cannot open a bank account.

The Department for Work and Pensions is leading a campaign to help financially excluded people access free money advice. The "Now Let's Talk Money" campaign will direct them to suitable bank accounts, local trusted sources of affordable credit and confidential advice.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether recipients of local housing allowance will be able to receive payments into post office card accounts after April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [178604]

Mr. Plaskitt: No. The Post Office card account does not have the facility to receive any deposits other than a state benefit.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to foreign nationals in each local authority area since 1 January 2004. [162346]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2005-06. The available information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance: Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department has checked the immigration status of applicants for national insurance numbers since 2006; and how many applications were refused as a result. [166516]

Mr. Plaskitt: Applications for national insurance numbers for employment purposes have automatically been subject to a proof of right to work check since July 2006.

Management information shows that between July 2006 and 30 November 2007 8,643 such applications were refused on the basis of not satisfying the right to work requirement. Details of these cases have been passed to the Border and Immigration Agency.

Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK citizens who reached state retirement age and had never been employed in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [181633]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 29 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply your parliamentary question on the proportion of UK citizens who reached state retirement age and had never been employed in the UK. (181633)

According to the labour force survey (LFS) for the three months ending November 2007, it is estimated that 400,000, or 3 per cent. of the 11 million UK nationals living in the UK who were at, or over, retirement age, had never worked.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the monthly Labour Market First Release

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of single mothers receiving *(a)* child support and *(b)* housing in Romford; and if he will make a statement. [181692]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 18 to 24 years were unemployed on (i) 1 May 1997 and (ii) the most recent date for which figures are available. [181650]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 21 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply your parliamentary question on how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 18 to 24 years were unemployed (i) on 1 May 1997 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. (181650) The information in the following table is from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and is the closest match to your request using published statistics. The data are seasonally adjusted and weighted to the most recently published UK population estimates.

Number of people unemployed

Thousand

	Three months ending May 1997	*Three months ending November 2007*
Aged 16 to 17 years	168	197
Aged 18 to 24 years	489	516

Seasonally adjusted estimates of International Labour Organisation unemployment levels and rates by age are published each month in the labour market statistics first release. Please visit the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable09_age.xls

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources report on aircraft noise. [174319]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of the ANASE project was £1,401,517.60.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the aviation security summit referred to by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) in the Westminster Hall debate on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 366WH, took place; what conclusions were reached at the summit; and if she will make a statement. [180077]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The summit was hosted by the Secretary of State on 19 July 2007 and was attended by senior representatives from the aviation industry. The main conclusions from the summit were that Government and industry should work together to ensure passengers arriving at airports last summer were better prepared and to consider how the one bag restriction can be lifted without compromising security.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total estimated cost of providing the national free concessionary bus pass scheme for pensioners in the Taunton Deane area was in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date; and what the actual costs were in each of these years; [182393]

(2) how much has been allocated to Taunton Deane Borough Council to fund national free concessionary bus travel scheme for pensioners in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date; and what percentage of that cost was provided by Central Government. [182395]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Funding for concessionary travel is part of a block within Revenue Support Grant (RSG), so it is not possible to disaggregate information for the allocation of it to individual Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) in 2005, 2006 and 2007. For the extra cost of the all-England bus concession from April 2008 an additional £212 million will be paid directly to TCAs in England by special grant, rising to £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11. In the provisional distribution of the grant in 2008-09 Taunton Deane borough council would receive £0.388 million through the special grant. This is in addition to their existing concessionary fares funding through RSG and represents an increase of 33 per cent. on the amount they spent on concessionary fares in 2006-07.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to reduce her Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181815]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has engaged with the Carbon Trust to produce a carbon management energy efficiency report which gives recommendations across the Department on new schemes, estate enhancements and best practice that will bring about a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. The report has recently been completed and the Department is currently developing an action plan which details the recommendations to be implemented, timescale for implementation and the estimated emissions savings. The plan is expected to be finalised by 31 March 2008.

Additionally, the Department for Transport has commissioned a Green Fleet Review from the Energy Saving Trust and will be acting upon its recommendations. The Department will also be using the Sustainable Procurement Task Force's "Flexible Framework" to benchmark its capability to deliver sustainable procurement and we will be utilising an ongoing programme of staff training, workshops and guidance to reinforce the message.

Departmental Contracts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultancy contracts her Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181896]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Lists have been placed in the Libraries of the House for commissions recorded within the Department and its agencies accounting systems as consultancy for financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The Department does not generally publish reports prepared by consultants that it has engaged. However, requests for copies of such reports would be considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 17 December 2007, on data loss, what personal data for which her Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if she will make a statement. [175768]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The Department for Transport includes its seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department. The only business unit within the Department that is responsible for significant amounts of personal information that is stored and/or processed overseas is the Driving Standards Agency.

The Driving Standards Agency has a contract with Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd. for the delivery of the driving theory test. Pursuant to this contract, the following data on candidates sitting their test are stored and processed in the United States:

Title; First name; Surname; Address; Postcode; Alternative postal address (if required); Phone number (optional); e-mail (optional); Date of birth; Gender; Specific card details that enable payment to be taken i.e. expiry date, card number, name, issue number; Date of test; Location of test; Test Score; Response to each multiple choice question; Response to each hazard perception test clip; Test category taken; Test pass/fail; Pass certificate number (if applicable); Special accommodation arranged i.e. voice over language, reader recorder.; British sign language/signer, translator (if required); Survey responses (optional); and Ethnic group (optional).

The Vehicle Certification Agency has offices in US, Japan, Malaysia, India and China. These offices keep small volumes of personal information of its UK Civil Servants based overseas, locally employed staff and contractors. The total number of individuals included is less that 100, five of which are VCA UK civil servants.

The central Department has a contract with Penna plc for the storage and processing of data relating to the performance management of DFT staff. These data are stored and processed in the United States. The information held includes employee name, team, e-mail address, gender, employee ID, pay band and responses to assessment questions. Approximately 8,800 records relating to civil servants are currently stored.

Heathrow Airport: Construction

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to take account of the implications of the accident involving flight BA038 in developing her policy on the expansion of Heathrow. [183018]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The recent incident at Heathrow is currently being investigated by the air accidents investigation branch (AAIB), and it is not appropriate at this stage to speculate on the cause. We will be awaiting the outcome of the investigation, which will include such recommendations as the AAIB deems appropriate.

Heathrow remains a very safe airport and safety continues to be our foremost concern as we develop proposals for adding capacity at Heathrow.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of which postcode areas would lose their break in the day from aircraft noise as a result of ending runway alternation at Heathrow; [170673]

(2) which postcode areas will be exposed to increased noise by the ending of the Cranford Agreement on Heathrow airport; [170674]

(3) which postcode areas would experience increased noise by the ending of the westerly preference at Heathrow airport; [170687]

(4) which postcode areas would experience less noise as a result of ending the Cranford Agreement in relation to Heathrow airport; [170688]

(5) which postcode areas will experience less noise as a result of ending the westerly preference at Heathrow airport; [170689]

(6) which postcode areas would be adversely affected by noise as a result of building a third runway at Heathrow airport; and which postcode areas would be added to the 157 dB Leq noise contour for Heathrow as a result of building a third runway; [170690]

(7) which postcode areas are affected by noise from Heathrow airport at the level of 50 dB; [170692]

(8) which postcode areas will be affected by aircraft noise at a level of 50 dB or greater as a result of building a third runway at Heathrow. [170693]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The noise effects of the various possible changes at Heathrow are illustrated by a series of noise contours contained in the supporting technical report 'Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates for Heathrow Airport' issued as part of the current consultation 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport'. Contours are shown from 57dBA, with 54dBA contours included for sensitivity purposes. In addition, the Department's website includes a facility allowing individuals to identify the likely change in noise levels, by postcode, under the various proposals. This includes Heathrow options with and without the Cranford agreement, mixed mode and a third runway. The noise levels are from 57dBA upwards and are presented with both a westerly preference and an easterly preference. They are indicative and should be used only as a guide.

The search facility includes postcodes in the following local authority areas: Bracknell Forest, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston-upon-Thames, Richmond upon Thames, Runnymede, Slough, South Bucks, Spelthorne, Wandsworth, Windsor and Maidenhead. Areas outside those boroughs are not expected to experience any change. Further information is on the website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/heathrowconsultation

and the postcode facility can be accessed at:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/heathrowconsultation/furtherinformation/postcodesearch/ .

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motor vehicles were crushed for non-payment of road tax in *(a)* the county of Essex and *(b)* the Chelmsford Local Authority area in each year since 1997. [181999]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regional figures are unavailable prior to 2002.

Vehicles scrapped in Essex and Chelmsford since 2002 are available in the following table.

	Essex	*Chelmsford*
2002	75	3
2003	1,056	2
2004	1,034	31
2005	829	1
2006	907	82
2007	1,110	209
Total	5,011	328

Railways: Kent

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with South Eastern Railway on the potential premium costs of using Javelin-operated high speed domestic services from Kent to St. Pancras. [182551]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The premium fares that may be charged for domestic high speed services are specified in the Franchise Agreement between the Secretary of State, and London and South Eastern Railways (LSER).

At this stage, the Department has not had any discussions with LSER on the premium fares that may be charged on domestic high speed services.

Travel: Concessions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what basis the allocation of £212 million for the National Concessionary Fares Scheme extension from 2008-09 was calculated; what the funding allocation for all transport authorities in the south-east except London is for that year; and if she will make a statement. [177339]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The £212 million funding allocation for 2008-09 is based on generous assumptions about increasing take-up of passes (85 per cent. in aggregate across England), extra journeys (10 per cent. or £100 million), and average fare (£1.34). It also includes a significant contingency to take account of the difficulty of allocating funding on a formula basis and uncertainty around the precise pattern of new journeys.

This new funding is being made available to cover only the additional costs of the new concession. Additional concessions will still have to be funded at an authority's discretion.

We consulted on four possible distributions of the grant. These options used data likely to reflect the main drivers of cost of the new concession (e.g. retail floor space, visitor numbers, bus patronage) in different combinations. Our proposed distribution is based on the most popular option. Travel concession authorities in the south-east will receive £25.14 million in total—an increase of 34 per cent. against what was spent in the region on concessionary travel in 2006-07. A list of the relevant local authorities and the proposed funding for each is as follows:

		2008-09 special grant allocation (£ million)
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury Vale	0.358
	Chiltern	0.165
	South Bucks	0.165
	Wycombe	0.363
	Total	1.052
East Sussex	Eastbourne	0.482
	Lewes	0.214
	Rother	0.297
	Wealden	0.276
	Total	1.269
Hampshire	Basingstoke and Deane	0.342
	East Hampshire	0.205
	Eastleigh	0.305
	Fareham	0.278
	Gosport	0.194
	Hart	0.142
	Havant	0.327
	New Forest	0.493
	Rushmoor	0.283
	Test Valley	0.225
	Winchester	0.256
	Total	3.048
Kent	Ashford	0.348
	Canterbury	0.546
	Dartford	0.395
	Dover	0.333
	Gravesham	0.274
	Hastings	0.424
	Maidstone	0.444
	Sevenoaks	0.233
	Shepway	0.346
	Swale	0.298
	Thanet	0.524
	Tonbridge and Malling	0.251
	Tunbridge Wells	0.329
	Total	4.744
Oxfordshire	Cherwell	0.426
	Oxford	0.821
	South Oxfordshire	0.317
	Vale of White Horse	0.261
	West Oxfordshire	0.255
	Total	2.080

		2008-09 special grant allocation (£ million)
Surrey	Elmbridge	0.283
	Epsom and Ewell	0.194
	Guildford	0.352
	Mole Valley	0.187
	Reigate and Banstead	0.260
	Runnymede	[illegible]
	Spelthorne	0.244
	Surrey Heath	0.200
	Tandridge	0.146
	Waverley	0.262
	Woking	0.254
	Total	2.544
West Sussex	Adur	0.167
	Arun	0.403
	Chichester	0.359
	Crawley	0.326
	Horsham	0.251
	Mid Sussex	0.271
	Worthing	0.357
	Total	2.134
Unitary	Bracknell Forest	0.251
	Brighton and Hove	1.715
	Isle of Wight	0.848
	Medway	0.669
	Milton Keynes	0.743
	Portsmouth	0.836
	Reading	0.926
	Slough	0.356
	Southampton	1.059
	West Berkshire	0.334
	Windsor and Maidenhead	0.321
	Wokingham	0.213
	Total	8.271

Underground Assets

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to facilitate the production of a standard accessible electronic register of underground assets. [182652]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has provided financial support to the National Underground Assets Group (NUAG), which is working to establish an effective and efficient means of recording, storing, sharing and displaying information on underground assets. The group has representatives from industry and local authorities as well as Ordnance Survey and the Association for Geographic Information. The Government support other related initiatives such as:

VISTA which uses GPS to generate 3-D models of the location of assets; and

Mapping the Underworld which identifies new technology to locate assets.

The three projects complement each other and share their conclusions to ensure compatibility of proposals.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Performance Appraisal

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials in his Department have been identified as lacking core skills as a result of the annual review process; and what measures are planned to ensure any such deficiencies are rectified. [180353]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is in the process of conducting and collating skills audits. As a consequence it is too early to offer any conclusions at this stage. The Department is also in the process of defining a skills strategy which will look to establish policies and methods for enhancing skills in Department employees going forward. Again this strategy is in the development stage. The Department has also made the skills pledge, a public commitment to support all employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

Departmental Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training financed by his Department is offered to trade unions representatives in his Department. [178089]

Mr. Lammy: No training is offered to trade unions representatives financed directly by this Department, though like all employees they do receive funding for their work and personal development training as any good employer would. All trade unions representatives receive their TU training and funding through the Union Learning Fund setup in 1998.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Nigeria

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of export credit outstanding at the end of financial year 2004-05 for Nigeria was for military goods. [180895]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: Information on ECGD business supported prior to 1991 is not held on a basis which enables defence to be identified separately from other sectors. ECGD has however supported no defence business on Nigeria since that date.

Bankruptcy: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses filed for bankruptcy in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [182809]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible from records held centrally and in a readily available format to provide all the information requested. The following table provides the statistics which could be compiled in the time available and which most closely match those requested.

Business bankruptcies in Peterborough constituency

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Traders	8	9	23	20	12	14
Non-traders	36	39	47	67	108	40
Missing	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total bankruptcies	44	48	70	87	121	54

[1] January to June

Notes:

1. The Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC) was used to classify trading-related bankruptcies (and company liquidations) until end September 2006. However, only the period from January to June 2006 is provided because of the way the data are held.

2. The figures above include bankruptcies filed on either the petition of the debtor (trader) or of a creditor.

3. The geographical information presented above is based on bankrupts' postcodes and is subject to an element of missing or unusable data. Nationally, this has been decreasing from around 9 per cent. in 2001 to 4 per cent. in 2006.

Company Liquidations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many administrations and liquidations began over *(a)* 10 years ago and *(b)* 15 years ago have not been finalised. [178530]

Mr. McFadden: Companies House records show that the number of companies which entered into an administration or liquidation process more than 10 years ago and which are still shown as live on the register are:

(a) 4,921 companies where the administration or liquidation process began between 10 and fifteen years ago.

(b) 1,2571 companies where the administration or liquidation process began more than 15 years ago.

In practice, it is likely that the number of insolvency processes which began more than 10 years ago and remain ongoing is significantly lower than this. It would be unusual for an individual process to continue for as long as 10 years. The implication is that, in a significant number of cases, the administrator or insolvency practitioner may not have notified Companies House that a process is complete. Companies House is considering, in discussion with the Insolvency Service, what further steps it could take to clarify how many companies fall into this category. At present, it is not possible to say what the true figure is.

In addition to their obligation to keep the public record up to date, the relevant insolvency office holder is required to give regular updates to creditors and, where appropriate, members of the company.

Energy: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department has allocated for green energy technologies in each of the next five years; to which programmes; and for what purpose in each year. [181852]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The following funding programmes announced by my Department are expected to continue spending over part or all of the next five years:

Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme

Hydrogen, Fuel Cell, and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

Offshore Wind Capital Grants Scheme

Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

The Department has also announced its intention to fund a Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration project.

Expenditure is demand-led and the Department does not make specific allocations for each year. These programmes have different expected lifespans: some will complete spending within five years and some will continue beyond that period. My Department's budget for low-carbon energy technologies over the comprehensive spending review period (the three years from April 2008-March 2011), is £200 million, through the new Environmental Transformation Fund. Spend under the programmes listed will be met from this budget, as will the estimated £9 million cost for the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study whose terms of reference I announced on 22 January. My Department's budget beyond March 2011 depends on the next central Government spending review.

Energy: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proposals were put forward by the United Kingdom for inclusion in the European Strategic Energy Technology (SET) plan being developed by the European Commission; which proposals were subsequently included in the SET plan; and what steps the United Kingdom intends to take to help remove institutional barriers to the take up of new energy technologies. [183043]

Malcolm Wicks: The United Kingdom, along with other EU member states, has been closely involved in the development of the European Strategic Energy Technology plan, and has engaged in discussions and commented and made suggestions on all aspects of the plan as it has developed over the past year. Industry participation has also been an important element of the process.

In broad terms the United Kingdom has advocated a SET plan that should set the strategic context and direction for EU policies and initiatives relevant to the development and deployment of new low carbon energy technologies, and that will add value to national policies and programmes.

The resulting SET plan, which is set to be adopted at the forthcoming EU Spring Council, reflects many of the issues raised by the UK in discussion. It is summarised in the Explanatory Memorandum to the 'Commission Communication: A European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan)—Towards a low-carbon future', deposited in Parliament by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 16 December 2007.

Later this year, the Government will launch a full consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our share of the EU 2020 renewables target. This will include consideration of how to remove barriers.

Energy: Prices

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of average energy prices in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [181906]

Malcolm Wicks: Data on energy prices are published by BERR in Quarterly Energy prices:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

Domestic prices are available on a regional basis. Electricity prices for England and Wales are not available separately, as data are collected by public electricity supply (PES) area, and some of these areas straddle the England/Wales border. BERR does not publish average gas price data for Northern Ireland. Regional price data are not available for industrial consumers.

For 2007, average prices for gas and electricity for domestic consumers paying by standard credit in pence per kWh were as follows:

Energy Prices: in pence per kWh

	England and Wales	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Wales*
Electricity	11.55	12.15	11.42	
Gas	3.07	3.04	—	2.97

Energy: Russia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with the Russian government on the energy charter treaty. [181474]

Malcolm Wicks: The energy charter treaty remains the only multilateral instrument providing a rules-based framework for trade, investment protection and transit of energy products and services, backed up by legally binding dispute resolution mechanisms. HMG supports the energy charter treaty as a valuable instrument in our objective of promoting open, competitive international energy markets.

Russia is a signatory to the energy charter treaty, and claims to apply the treaty provisionally. Russian ratification of the treaty remains our goal. Our bilateral and multilateral discussions with Russia, together with the regular meetings of energy charter treaty signatories, provide opportunities to demonstrate the continuing value of ECT ratification.

Export Credit Guarantees: Fraud

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures the Exports Credits Guarantee Department has put in place to ensure that fraudulent or unethical export contracts are identified and excluded prior to abandonment of export credit claims under the UK's debt cancellation policy. [180436]

Malcolm Wicks: In order for any debt arising in relation to an ECGD-supported export contract to be considered for forgiveness, that debt must appear on the list of debts which form the subject of a debt rescheduling agreement between the UK and the debtor country, which would, almost invariably, be entered into pursuant to arrangements agreed in the Paris Club. The debts to be included in that debt list would have to be accepted by the government of the debtor country and, during this acceptance process, it would be open to the debtor country to raise objections to the inclusion of any particular debt on the grounds that the export contract to which it relates had been procured by corruption or is otherwise ineligible for inclusion in the debt list.

In addition, in 2000, ECGD first published new Business Principles and anti-corruption procedures and these (as updated from time to time) are applied to all new applications for ECGD support.

Natural Gas: Housing

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many homes in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the East Midlands and *(d)* North West Leicestershire were not connected to the natural gas supply at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the average number was by parliamentary constituency in (i) the UK and (ii) England. [182804]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: As part of its regional and local energy statistics publication programme, BERR has published the number of domestic gas meter points in each region and local authority in Great Britain. The following estimates compare the number of domestic meter points with the estimates of the number of households in each area for 2004. Corresponding data are not available for the UK, as BERR do not have information relating to Northern Ireland.

	Number
England	2,509,000
East Midlands	202,000
North West Leicestershire	5,000

Sources:

Gas sales and numbers of customers by region and area: 2004, BERR

Mid-year household estimates for England: 2004, CLG

Figures for North West Leicestershire relate to the local authority rather than the parliamentary constituency. BERR do not have data at parliamentary constituency level.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1632W, on nuclear power stations: construction, how much funding will be provided to enable hard to reach groups to participate in a public inquiry into an application to build a nuclear power plant; what criteria will be used to assess eligibility for such funding; and what is the maximum value of funding which will be available for any individual inquiry. [183065]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government fund Planning Aid which provides independent, free advice to hard to reach groups in order to help them to participate in the planning system. For 2007-08 the grant is £1.7 million. The Planning White Paper referred to increasing grant funding for bodies such as Planning Aid to ensure that members of the public get the advice and support they need to get involved in planning inquiries on major infrastructure projects. No decisions have been taken on future levels of funding for Planning Aid.

Nuclear Power: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the analysis of the potential contribution of nuclear power for reducing carbon emissions, set out at paragraphs A5-A12 of Annex A to the White Paper on Nuclear Power, Cm 7296, includes an assessment of carbon emissions accruing from *(a)* uranium mining, milling, processing and environment, *(b)* the construction and decommissioning of nuclear power plants and *(c)* the management of radioactive waste arising from nuclear power plants. [180938]

Malcolm Wicks: The analysis of the potential contribution of nuclear power to reducing carbon emissions in annex A of the White Paper on Nuclear Power covers emissions arising at the point of generation. The issue of the full life cycle emissions from different electricity generation technologies is covered in the answer to question two from the consultation on nuclear power and is summarised in paragraphs 2.10 to 2.25 of the White Paper. The estimated full life cycle emissions from a nuclear power station (7-22gCO_2/kWh) are equivalent to between 2 per cent. and 6 per cent. of those of a gas-fired station for every unit of electricity generated. These include all emissions from uranium processing, through construction and decommissioning to the management of radioactive waste.

The cost-benefit analysis of nuclear power published with the 2007 Energy White Paper included the full costs of nuclear, including those for waste and decommissioning.

Post Offices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a list of the addresses of all post offices in the UK. [176357]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. annually places in the Libraries of the House a list of all post offices in the network by parliamentary constituency. The list gives post office name, post town and post code.

Postal Offices: Rural Areas

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what minimum number of rural post office branches would be required to ensure that 95 per cent. of the total rural population lived within three miles of a post office branch; and how many post office branches classified as rural there were at the end of financial year 2006-07; [182452]

(2) what minimum number of post office branches would be required to ensure that 99 per cent. of the UK population is within three miles and 90 per cent. of the population are within one mile of their nearest post office outlet. [182453]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful prosecutions there have been for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006; and how many licensees have lost their licences as a result. [182681]

Mr. Coaker: The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into force on 6 April 2007, statistics on court proceedings and cautions for 2007 will be published in the autumn of 2008.

Community Development

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect that the implementation of the Respect Agenda has on West Chelmsford constituency. [181506]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: No assessment has been made of the effect that the implementation of the Respect Agenda has had in West Chelmsford. However, the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006-07 showed that between 2003 and 2006 the number of people perceiving antisocial behaviour as a very or fairly big problem in Chelmsford fell from 35 per cent. to 15 per cent.

Through the Respect programme, we introduced new approaches nationally to tackle the root causes of antisocial behaviour. Key commitments in the Government's Respect action plan have now been met and mainstreamed locally.

We are committed to building on the excellent progress made across the country, working with local authorities and the police to tackle the problems on the ground but also to deal with the root causes through early intervention and prevention.

Three independent reports on the Government's strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour show that it is working: The Home Affairs Select Committee Report, the National Audit Office report (2006) and Public Accounts Committee Report (2007). Public perceptions of antisocial behaviour being a problem locally are down as shown in the British Crime Survey and the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006-07.

Crime: Statistics

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to provide local crime statistics. [179633]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have committed to making consistent, monthly, local information on crime available throughout the country. This will include data on crime and community safety issues but will also comprise other kinds of information of use to the local community, such as information about what local agencies are doing to tackle their community safety priorities.

The Home Office is working with ACPO, the APA and other stakeholders to identify how best this can be achieved.

Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects to implement the additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime on the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems. [174425]

Mr. Coaker: The Government believe that our current law effectively deals with incitement to racial hatred, and strikes the right balance between the need to protect individuals from violence and hatred and the need to protect freedom of expression. We will therefore not ratify the protocol as it does not allow us to maintain our criminal threshold for this sort of offence.

E-mail: Fraud

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the banking industry on phishing e-mails; what steps her Department is taking to prevent phishing; and if she will make a statement. [181139]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has not had any discussions with the banking industry on this matter.

The Government have a dialogue with the banking and internet industries through our joint initiative, GetSafeOnline. This has the purpose of providing information to the public on protecting themselves against e-crime, such as phishing.

The UK banking industry also helps online banking customers stay safe while online through BankSafeOnline.org. Customers can also report scams through this site.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review firearm and air rifle licensing regulations. [182704]

Mr. Coaker: Controls on firearms are kept under close scrutiny and changes made where necessary to secure public safety. The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 both included measures which further regulate the use and possession of air weapons and realistic imitation firearms. As recently announced, I will be consulting shortly on the introduction of stricter controls on deactivated firearms.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women discovered by police and immigration services as part of Operation Rampart were in the UK as illegal immigrants; and how many had been trafficked into the United Kingdom. [181114]

Mr. Coaker: 48 women found were discovered to be in the country unlawfully.

Of the women discovered in this operation one had been identified as a victim of trafficking.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted of immigration offences as part of Operation Rampart. [181113]

Mr. Coaker: Operation Rampart led to the arrest of 42 people on suspicion of being in the United Kingdom unlawfully. Of these 37 people were removed from the country. Three people were also charged with document offences.

In a related operation three people were arrested and prosecuted for passport offences and on conviction were also removed from the UK.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 306-7W, on immobilisations of vehicles, if her Department will strengthen regulation of wheel clampers on private land in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [171109]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* The Home Office is continuing to consider reviewing policy on the regulation of vehicle immobilisers. We have not reached any conclusion however, and therefore no decision has been made at this point about whether a review will proceed, or if it does, the likely timescale.

Macfarlan Smith

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 213-15W on Macfarlan Smith, when the analysis of Macfarlan Smith's position began; and when is it expected to be completed. [179508]

Mr. Coaker: Work commenced on 5 October 2006 and continues. Completion depends upon finalising the data collection and assessment.

Offensive Weapons

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department has conducted consultations on restricting or controlling the sale of knives; and if she will make a statement; [182529]

(2) what consideration she has given to licensing the sale of domestic and non-domestic knives; and if she will make a statement; [182531]

(3) what restrictions are in place on the sale of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic knives; and if she will make a statement. [182532]

Mr. Coaker: There are a number of restrictions and controls on the sale of knives and other bladed instruments. The Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 bans the sale of flick knives and gravity knives. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 prohibits the manufacture, sale and hire of 17 weapons specified in the Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 including butterfly knives. The Government consulted in March 2007 on adding samurai swords and other offensive weapons to the Order, and has announced its intention to proceed with a ban on the sale of samurai swords, subject to exemptions for collectors and reputable martial arts groups, by April 2008.

While the Government do not currently have plans to license the sale of knives we have, as part of our commitment to tackling knife crime, made it an offence to sell a knife to a person aged under 18 in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, which is an increase from the previous age of 16. The Knives Act 1997 also makes it an offence to market knives as suitable for combat, or in ways likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been confiscated as proceeds of drug crime in each police force area in each of the last 12 months. [182773]

Mr. Coaker: The total value of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders made in each police force in England and Wales from January to December 2007 against criminals involved in drug crime is set out in the following table. The enforcement of confiscation orders is primarily the responsibility of the HM Courts Service.

Year: 2007

£

Police force	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	1,185.00	5,902.51	63,889.81	4,480.20	92,549.07	13,974.51
Bedfordshire Police	25,925.37	3,493.29	2,130.00	5,120.00	6,980.75	1,158.61
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	894.54	19,138.36	5,934.25	14,802.50	554.37	2,827.29
Cheshire Constabulary	0.00	42,588.73	94,527.25	8,514.75	0.00	6,247.40
City of London Police	0.00	0.00	29,944.18	22,243.83	0.00	0.00
Cleveland Police	4,937.31	30,280.54	101,913.00	8,161.46	3,314.00	1,260.00
Cumbria Constabulary	14,940.00	9,213.37	3,579.24	40,000.00	7,546.94	10,170.74
Derbyshire Constabulary	1,261.53	285,182.83	32,973.81	55,902.56	12,568.63	13,049.00
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	1,400.00	5,600.56	11,444.00	0.00	12,961.50	6,139.37
Dorset Police	1,791,737.00	43,133.30	12,560.00	788,657.00	2,680.00	5,679.00
Durham Constabulary	4,875.00	1,800.00	4,830.00	414,168.49	1,100.00	1,240.43
Dyfed-Powys Police	21,506.30	7,321.65	24,442.03	13.89	2,343.80	445,671.05
Essex Police	19,019.76	19,052.00	44,818.14	21,204.57	36,797.27	35,464.31
Gloucestershire Constabulary	90,295.00	14,764.43	9,705.00	16,803.20	42,665.55	2,360.00
Greater Manchester Police	30,779.43	47,318.49	15,146.32	292,957.86	518,271.76	141,654.04
Gwent Police	0.00	3,501.92	12,288.33	76,633.04	384,336.93	1,170.00
Hampshire Constabulary	8,000.25	56,425.00	14,305.55	69,499.33	34,865.00	121,859.63
Hertfordshire Constabulary	88,365.00	0.00	91,004.75	168,359.87	155,980.00	4,064.71
Humberside Police	56,232.04	0.00	3,000.00	1,180.00	6,657.16	23,719.91
Kent Police	1,978.28	103,561.45	459.44	97,502.06	14,786.60	62,332.82
Lancashire Constabulary	25,079.49	498,383.00	2,786.00	12,791.37	61,159.53	85,564.06
Leicestershire Constabulary	736.00	9,327.91	18,179.68	31,953.87	9,884.17	23,460.55

Year: 2007

£

Police force	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Lincolnshire Police	4,104.00	2,010.00	0.00	15,000.00	3,996.10	50.00
Merseyside Police	862,908.75	73,878.43	108.514.98	556,462.21	113,821.25	41,965.30
Metropolitan Police Service	213,468.48	120.328.31	420,992.70	472,352.67	345,291.84	297,026.85
Norfolk Constabulary	4,912.47	8,243.90	350.00	0.00	279,880.23	55,029.68
North Wales Police	0.00	531.59	25,650.41	0.00	47,621.14	9,885.50
North Yorkshire Police	1,202.25	45,199.51	1,140.00	20,315.00	12,518.23	6,963.02
Northamptonshire Police	6,350.00	21,448.99	13,036.41	11,334.86	167,934.21	17,438.29
Northumbria Police	23,592.52	8,747.51	51,619.97	7,335.00	0.00	326,921.28
Nottinghamshire Police	20,928.68	37,464.85	129,850.44	4,649.86	3,704.97	10.136.54
South Wales Police	11,202.63	82,861.44	53,817.62	603.54	22,385.10	10,721.10
South Yorkshire Police	128,393.42	3,937.19	13,003.97	17,409.82	22,233.76	46,580.68
Staffordshire Police	32,133.50	11,497.72	68,019.07	21,072.96	19,651.43	10,379.38
Suffolk Constabulary	29,017.77	32,141.68	4,693.00	5,669.40	121,852.79	19,262.05
Surrey Police	1,100.00	36,280.00	0.00	3,040.00	1,650.01	1,555.86
Sussex Police	4,163.11	233,245.35	9,206.27	29,061.69	28,125.00	7,571.69
Thames Valley Police	23,161.50	23,039.49	15,806.32	19,500.47	430,080.30	87,868.79
Warwickshire Police	150.00	0.00	4,571.16	1,000.00	111,358.88	3,805.00
West Mercia Constabulary	19,474.45	905.00	67,951.44	24,376.55	836.59	10,191.62
West Midlands Police	23,020.70	51,938.70	73,649.34	27,011.09	548,649.87	40,750.18
West Yorkshire Police	37,993.28	132,372.68	64,004.35	30,201.05	48,150.21	46,270.42
Wiltshire Constabulary	3,574.37	9,187.00	81,608.88	1,092.01	75,184.65	19,195.43

£

Police force	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	139,951.64	76,715.45	102,202.77	50,630.76	4,356.57	20,900.74
Bedfordshire Police	1,126.19	0.00	1,093.60	65,72[illegible].16	57,993.66	500,910.13
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	4,813.43	43,634.90	18.920.09	14,368.76	79,835.80	36,939.92
Cheshire Constabulary	0.00	5,250.00	9,347.00	4,209.91	3,192.20	2,727.00
City of London Police	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cleveland Police	5,716.36	11.022.54	2,054.90	4,710.00	21,101.45	7,252.96
Cumbria Constabulary	8,132.34	48,528.29	4,149.80	4,794.28	1,640.00	13,957.19
Derbyshire Constabulary	11,828.01	4,682.76	285.33	63,335.12	1,557.23	942.52
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	13,110.20	12,934.18	58,475.15	13,524.00	6,025.00	4,707.25
Dorset Police	69,744.00	5,562.71	2,800.00	114,745.73	3,656.51	4,925.00
Durham Constabulary	5,823.01	8,158.00	5,880.65	164.02	4,337.51	10,954.50
Dyfed-Powys Police	10,157.25	801.22	18,335.10	560.54	219.71	446.00
Essex Police	1,800.00	5,865.00	20,887.57	10,972.89	9,790.00	8,418.55
Gloucestershire Constabulary	7,709.57	4,287.81	710.09	9,358.00	25,053.13	1.674.80
Greater Manchester Police	101,540.15	57,741.46	33,483.56	119,001.44	171,882.46	99,944.08
Gwent Police	4,145.11	21,978.29	43,373.81	112,616.26	0.00	42,077.36
Hampshire Constabulary	5,737.56	118,741.99	159,707.00	53,761.00	15,644.52	13,253.17
Hertfordshire Constabulary	217,201.35	67,945.54	5,101.00	28,090.56	10,528.83	3,060.00
Humberside Police	39,600.00	78,589.35	466,673.04	19,069.74	51,186.19	0.00
Kent Police	164,865.31	499,610.00	0.00	903,893.08	9,028.00	2,955.00
Lancashire Constabulary	6,178.55	45,621.43	117,330.52	28,239.44	67,681.01	15,405.92
Leicestershire Constabulary	9,840.79	9,244.98	16,326.89	14,144.51	18,898.42	12,445.37
Lincolnshire Police	2,400.00	17,248.86	0.00	7,156.30	13,894.00	1,025.00
Merseyside Police	60,809.70	224,288.72	371,160.72	244,948.67	171,469.93	304,140.24
Metropolitan Police Service	161,986.74	285,234.49	169,676.87	792,029.98	533,093.45	1,104,138.14

£

Police force	July	August	September	October	November	December
Norfolk Constabulary	40,486.99	785,976.84	5,510.00	8,590.55	23,106.16	143,075.29
North Wales Police	12,792.75	2,324.90	20,043.60	2,695.00	5,574.50	16,864.00
North Yorkshire Police	40,167.83	6,955.06	5,767.08	0.00	14,193.86	24,120.00
Northamptonshire Police	33,050.98	2,625.98	670.00	9,258.32	6,423.95	0.00
Northumbria Police	340,980.94	5,199.77	16,570.36	8,380.54	3,692.37	6,320.00
Nottinghamshire Police	2,250.00	55,851.45	180,531.59	11,190.46	114,904.99	9,626.52
South Wales Police	43,441.05	14,365.62	14,628.99	24,954.02	16,671.07	24,853.34
South Yorkshire Police	336,500.94	22,770.29	84,275.00	37,296.84	16,732.93	8,664.54
Staffordshire Police	54,313.35	44,725.88	5,160.50	1,317,246.29	25,952.88	6,945.00
Suffolk Constabulary	3,292.59	1,996.95	25,530.88	7,101.94	0.00	2,220.00
Surrey Police	3,240.00	323,896.95	0.00	7,100.00	8,059.34	6,391.48
Sussex Police	35,076.29	40,496.65	20,629.33	5,485.00	52,374.96	149,939.53
Thames Valley Police	45,107.06	37,700.26	17,978.34	42,166.82	19,706.01	84,125.60
Warwickshire Police	2,427.87	7,115.00	86,254.81	10,657.69	4,524.23	4,227.10
West Mercia Constabulary	1,415.39	16,360.00	2,229.72	27,040.00	11,215.00	32,610.59
West Midlands Police	17,326.37	72,620.10	45,602.58	91,192.82	66,700.89	761,322.05
West Yorkshire Police	65,838.75	22,343.73	100,804.96	105,113.51	55,588.44	214,166.83
Wiltshire Constabulary	4,800.54	0.00	8,805.00	0.00	461.00	1,219.09

Proceeds of Crime: Durham Police Force

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money was received by the Durham police force from confiscation of the proceeds of crime in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [183030]

Mr. Coaker: A total of £115,501 of recovered criminal proceeds was paid to Durham police authority in 2007 under the asset recovery incentive scheme. A further payment to reward the force's performance in the final quarter of 2007 will be made shortly

Road Traffic Offences: Fraud

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were successfully prosecuted for *(a)* illegally clamping vehicles on private land and *(b)* fraudulently issuing penalty tickets in each year since 2004. [180642]

Mr. Coaker: There is no specific offence of illegally clamping a vehicle on private land or fraudulently issuing a penalty ticket for parking on private land. The Private Security Industry Act 2001 provides for the regulation of vehicle immobilisers carrying out licensable activities and for a range of offences which include using an unlicensed wheel-clamper. The most common offence prosecuted under the Act is "conduct prohibited without a licence". This would include carrying out, without a licence, not only wheel-clamping and related activities but also the other types of activity which are licensable under the 2001 Act, such as manned guarding and door supervision. Numbers of prosecutions and convictions for 2004 to 2006 for these offences and for the offence of carrying out conduct prohibited without a licence are shown in the following table. The data for the second and third categories do not break down further the licensable activities to which the prosecutions are related.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of offences under the 2001 Private Security Industry Act 2001, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1] [2]

		2004		2005		2006	
Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Offence of using unlicensed security operatives	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.5(1)(4)	—	—	3	—	13	8
Offence of using unlicensed wheel clampers operative	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.6(1)(4)	—	—	2	—	—	—
Right to use approved status	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.16(2)(a)&(4)	5	4	1	1	1	1
Imposition of requirements for approval	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.17(2)(a)&(4)	6	6	159	65	141	84
Conduct prohibited without a licence	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.3(1)(6)	—	—	1	—	1	—
Powers of entry and inspection	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.19(5)(a)(b) & (c) & (7)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of offences under the 2001 Private Security Industry Act 2001, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1] [2]

		2004		2005		2006	
Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
False information	Private Security Industry Act 2001 S.22(1)(b)(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		11	10	168	66	156	93

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Security Industry Authority: Scotland

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those issued security industry authority licences who were not entitled to work in the UK were employed in Scotland in the last five years. [182537]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Elections

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what practical support he is offering to Bangladesh ahead of the elections scheduled for December 2008. [182104]

Dr. Howells: Credible elections in 2008 that can sustain democracy in the longer term are essential for Bangladesh. The UK is playing its part and offering practical support. Through the Department for International Development (DFID), the UK has contributed £10 million to the voter registration programme in Bangladesh and we have seen encouraging progress to date. A further £1.1 million from DFID is being spent, through the Asia Foundation, on the promotion of accountability, issues-based campaigning and non-violence. This is in addition to our funding of a country-wide scheme to motivate vulnerable groups to register to vote.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of the interim government of Bangladesh on holding elections in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [182107]

Dr. Howells: We support a return to healthy and sustainable democracy in Bangladesh, through the creation of the conditions for credible elections. When he met the Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK (Mr. Shafi U Ahmed) on 22 January, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, welcomed the Caretaker government's assurance that elections will take place in 2008 and underlined the need to adhere to the election roadmap. We also welcome remarks by the Chief Adviser and the Chief Election Commissioner that those elections could be brought forward should voter list and electoral reforms be completed earlier than planned.

Bangladesh: Human Rights

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [182103]

Dr. Howells: There are legitimate concerns about human rights in Bangladesh. The caretaker Government's announcement of a Human Rights Commission is a step in the right direction. We welcome the separation of the judiciary and the Executive. We continue to urge the Government, army and law enforcement agencies to act impartially and proportionately, with respect for public safety, human rights, media freedoms and the rule of law.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the imprisonment of three professors at Dhaka University in Bangladesh for two years for taking part in protests which contravened the emergency rule of the government of Bangladesh; and what assessment he has made of such reports. [182106]

Dr. Howells: On 22 January 2008, three teachers from Dhaka university were sentenced to two years' imprisonment for taking part in protests that contravened the emergency rules. On the same day, the teachers were released following a Presidential decree of clemency. Throughout our engagement with the caretaker Government, we have consistently emphasised that, in creating the conditions for credible elections and sustainable democracy, it is necessary to retain respect for individuals' rights and democratic and judicial processes.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Bangladesh on the detention without trial of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Mr. Moudud Ahmed; and if he will make a statement. [182374]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Government of Bangladesh on this case. Mr. Ahmed is currently in detention pending a procedural court ruling in relation to the charges laid against him on 16 September 2007 by the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh.

We welcome the recent separation of the Judiciary and the Executive in Bangladesh, and continue to urge the Caretaker government, the army and law enforcement agencies to act impartially and proportionately, with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of the interim Government of Bangladesh towards lifting restrictions on political activities in Bangladesh. [182102]

Dr. Howells: We support the restoration of full democratic processes in Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity. We believe that the lifting of the ban on indoor political activities was an important step towards this. We would like to see a dialogue between the caretaker Government and the political parties that includes discussion of further moves towards lifting the remaining restrictions.

Cyprus

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place with the Turkish government on removing Turkish troops from Cyprus. [182662]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The issue of Turkish troops in Cyprus is raised during regular bilateral discussions with the Turkish government, where we encourage Turkey to work hard towards the normalisation of relations with Cyprus.

We believe that a reduction in the number of Turkish troops in northern Cyprus would build trust on the island, and inject momentum into the UN's efforts to make decisive progress towards a comprehensive settlement in 2008. The wider issue of security in Cyprus is one of a number of crucial issues that can only be fully solved through a comprehensive settlement.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the progress of the North Kivu Peace Conference convened by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [179487]

Meg Munn: The conference resulted in commitments on a cease-fire in the region, the creation of demilitarised zones, an amnesty for combatants who have committed acts of insurrection, the liberation of political prisoners, the lifting of road blocks and the return of refugees. This was possible because of the constructive and co-operative approach taken by the groups represented there. All parties will need to continue to work together to ensure lasting peace.

The UK firmly supports the outcome of the conference as a constructive step towards stability in the region.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of the proposed ceasefire in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with particular reference to the position of General Nkunda. [182226]

Meg Munn: I congratulate the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all the participants on the successful outcome of the Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the provinces of north Kivu and south Kivu. The agreements reached offer a good opportunity for peace and stability in the region. All parties will need to continue to work together to secure a lasting peace.

I strongly support a political solution to issues in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The constructive approach of the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo towards General Nkunda has allowed his organisation, the National Congress for People's Defence, to contribute to efforts towards such a solution.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1609W, on departmental internet, what proportion of *(a)* visits and *(b)* page views to the blogging platform came from computers with Government IP addresses. [182620]

Meg Munn: Collating the information requested by the hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost. Even then it would not be possible to guarantee a complete answer because lists of IP addresses for Government Departments are not readily available.

Diplomatic Service: EU Nationals

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1610W, on the diplomatic service: EU nationals, how many times non-UK EU citizens have received services from British embassies under Article 20 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* nationality since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [182391]

Meg Munn: From 2003 onwards, as part of our annual survey of consular operations overseas, we have collected information from overseas posts on the number of unrepresented EU nationals who have received assistance from consular services (not including general inquiries and requests for advice). We do not break this information down by nationality.

We are unable to provide figures before 2003, as between 1996 and 2002 figures for EU and Commonwealth nationals were collated together.

The following table shows the number of these assistance cases where support was given to EU nationals with comparative figures against UK missions globally.

	EU cases	*Total cases*
2003-04	147	24,761
2004-05	366	26,691
2005-06	120	27,772
2006-07	98	34,874

EU Reform: Treaties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether every EU member state is required to ratify the treaty of Lisbon for it to come into force; and if he will make a statement. [178703]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Lisbon treaty shall enter into force only after being ratified by all 27 member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, and not before 1 January 2009.

India: Christianity

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of India on the treatment of Christians in Orissa; and if he will make a statement. [183077]

Dr. Howells: While such incidents remain an internal matter for the Indian government, we continue to seek out opportunities to raise UK human rights concerns in India, including incidents of religious intolerance. We urge the Indian authorities to uphold the right to freedom of religion and bring to justice those responsible for attacks against people on account of their religion.

India: UN Security Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking at the United Nations to support the initiative announced by the Prime Minister on 21 January to include India as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. [182053]

Dr. Howells: The UK is a long-standing supporter of India's candidacy for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. We also support Brazilian, German, Japanese and African permanent representation.

The eventual size and form of an enlarged Security Council requires agreement from the UN membership, as set out in the charter of the UN. The UK has consistently championed the need for a reformed Council to represent emerging powers in the modern world. The UK continues to engage actively in debate over Security Council reform both in New York and with UN partners world-wide, and we have voiced our support for initiatives by the President of the General Assembly to drive forward the reform process.

Iran: Oppression

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Iranian Government on the unlawful imprisonment of three Baha'is at the Iranian Ministry of Information on 19 November 2007. [183225]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about the treatment of religious minorities in Iran, including Baha'is. The EU presidency raised our concerns over the treatment of the Baha'i minority in Iran during a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 January, and called for the release of the three individuals imprisoned at the Ministry of Information. In addition, the UN General Assembly Resolution on human rights in Iran, adopted in December 2007 and co-sponsored by all EU member states, expressed very serious concern over the treatment of Baha'is.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise our concerns about the treatment of the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU.

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Williams draft of his Department's dossier on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction. [183095]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently considering the Information Tribunal's judgment in this case and the legal options available to it. It would therefore not be appropriate to place a copy in the Library of the House at this stage. If, and when, the document is released a copy will be made available for the Library.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the Government have intelligence that Iraq sought to procure uranium from Niger that it still believes to be accurate and that was unknown to the US at the time that the US expressed reservations on the Government's September 2002 Iraq dossier, further to paragraph 93 of the Intelligence and Security Committee Report, Cm 5972, of September 2003; [183226]

(2) whether both the Government's June 2002 and September 2002 sources of intelligence that Iraq sought to purchase uranium from Africa, referred to in paragraph 89 of the Intelligence and Security Committee Report, Cm 5972, of September 2003, were either passed to or discussed with the International Atomic Energy Agency the information they had on that issue. [183227]

Dr. Howells: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters.

Jordan: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet the Jordanian Ambassador to discuss improving equestrian welfare at Petra in Jordan. [182156]

Dr. Howells: While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to raise this specific issue with the Jordanian Ambassador, officials will discuss this matter with the Jordanian authorities.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government formally recognise the government of President Kibaki in Kenya. [181972]

Meg Munn: The Government recognise states, not Governments. However, we share the concerns of the international community over the conduct of the presidential election. Concerns were highlighted in independent Election Observer Mission reports, including those from the Commonwealth, the East African community, domestic observers, as well as in the initial findings of the European Union's mission.

Given that none of the independent international observers to the elections believe the tallying met international standards it is difficult to have any confidence in the announced result. Against that background, we are pressing for negotiations between the two sides to ensure agreement on a government that can enjoy Kenyan and international confidence.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on the security situation in Lebanon of the imminent expiry of the deadline to agree a new President by 24 November; and what diplomatic support the UK is providing to the process. [168549]

David Miliband: The security situation in Lebanon remains volatile and precarious, with tensions running high over the election of a new President. Since December 2007 there have been three bomb attacks in Beirut, two of which have killed senior members of the Lebanese army and security forces as well as bystanders. On 27 January 2008 serious civil disturbances killed seven people in Beirut.

The UK continues to support efforts by the international community to resolve the crisis. Bilaterally, my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr Howells) visited Beirut in December 2007 to highlight to all sides the need for compromise. Our ambassador in Beirut continues to be active on the ground, encouraging all sides to come to an agreement. I refer the right hon. Member to the detailed statement my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East made to the House on the current situation in Lebanon during the end of day adjournment debate on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 141-46.

Serbia: EU External Relations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to support the signature of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia at the forthcoming General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 to 29 January; whether his support for the signature of this agreement is contingent on Serbia meeting its obligations to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; and if he will make a statement. [182702]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) conclusions of June 2007 recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) would depend on Serbia's full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

This Government and the EU are committed to signing a SAA as soon as the necessary steps have been finalised. We remain convinced of the benefits that the SAA will bring to both sides and of the positive effects this will have for the region. With a view to achieving this, the EU has agreed to set up a task force to examine ways of delivering rapid progress. The work of the task force started on 28 January 2008, with a view to formulating recommendations to Serbia and the Council of the EU as quickly as possible.

The GAERC of 28 January 2008 agreed to invite Serbia to sign an interim Political Agreement on co-operation between the EU and Serbia, providing a framework for making progress on political dialogue, free trade, visa liberalisation, and education co-operation, to be signed on 7 February.

Serbia has a crucial role to play in the Western Balkans, both for ensuring stability and as a motor for the economic development and prosperity of the region. The EU expressed its commitment to deepen its relationship with Serbia, which draws on a rich and diverse range of cultural, historic, economic and people to people ties.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Contact Group counterparts on the situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [182200]

Dr. Howells: The International Contact Group for Somalia most recently met at senior official level in Rome on 10 September 2007. The next Contact Group meeting is due to be hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa, although a date has yet to be set. The Government continue to be in close contact with our key Contact Group partners, for example my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown's meeting with UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ould Abdalla in London on 7 December 2007.

Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has been invited to observe the forthcoming second Sudan People's Liberation Movement convention in Juba. [182649]

Meg Munn: The UK has not been invited to observe the Sudan People's Liberation Movement convention in Juba. We understand that it will be held in April and no formal invitations have so far been issued. We have been invited to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of previous party conventions.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the time frame for the full deployment of the joint UN-AU hybrid force for Darfur. [182161]

Meg Munn: The joint UN-African Union hybrid force for Darfur assumed authority from the African Union mission in Sudan on 31 December 2007. At the time of transfer of authority, the total strength of the mission was approximately 9,800. The UN-African Union hybrid force for Darfur will increase in strength and capability throughout 2008. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations is overseeing the on-going deployment in conjunction with the African Union. We are working closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure the joint UN-African Union hybrid force for Darfur becomes fully established as quickly as possible.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to convene a meeting to focus on generating the requisite units for the joint UN-AU hybrid force for Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [182196]

Meg Munn: The African Union-UN hybrid mission in Darfur is being generated by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to meet with potential contributing countries and has received pledges for most of the requisite units for the African Union-UN hybrid mission in Darfur. However, shortfalls remain, including in helicopters and ground transportation. In support of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations we convened a meeting of a number of countries in New York on 16 January to discuss generating helicopter units for the African Union-UN hybrid mission in Darfur. A follow-up meeting will take place in the coming weeks. We are also investigating the possibility of further meetings with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and partners to discuss other support to the African Union-UN hybrid mission in Darfur.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the security situation in Western Darfur and the impact it may have on the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid force to the region. [182197]

Meg Munn: There has been a deterioration in security in West Darfur since the end of November 2007: there have been cross-border incursions by Chadian government forces pursuing Chadian rebels and clashes between rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese armed forces.

Elements of the UN-African Union hybrid force are already deployed in West Darfur. An attack on a UN-African Union hybrid force convoy by the Sudanese armed forces on 7 January in West Darfur—which Sudanese authorities claim was a mistake—was condemned by the UN Security Council. We are pressing all parties—the Government of Sudan, Government of Chad, and rebel groups—to exercise restraint, and we are supporting the Department of Peacekeeping Operation's efforts towards the prompt establishment of an effective UN-African Union hybrid force precisely to improve security in the region.

Tibet: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of the delegation to Tibet as part of the UK-China Human Rights dialogue; what rank or grading each member of the delegation has; who is leading the delegation; and what meetings they plan to have with Tibetans which are unsupervised and unarranged by the Chinese authorities. [182921]

Meg Munn: The Director Asia Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is leading the UK delegation to the dialogue in Beijing and on the field trip to Tibet, as part of the UK-China Human Rights dialogue. The delegation includes 10 people, ranging from heads of department down to administrative support officers. It will include representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Metropolitan Police Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Welsh Assembly government, as well as an independent academic expert. There will be no unofficial meetings during the field trip to Tibet.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his South African counterpart on the current status of South African mediation efforts between the government and opposition parties in Zimbabwe through the South African Development Community initiative; and if he will make a statement. [182199]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Amos, on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, discussed this issue with President Mbeki in the margins of the EU-African Union Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. Our high commission in Pretoria also keeps abreast of progress through its regular contacts with the South African administration.

We continue to support President Mbeki's mediation efforts. The President visited Harare on 17-18 January for further talks with President Mugabe and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change. However, there appears to have been no breakthrough and we are increasingly less optimistic about the outcome.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business: Non-domestic Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 536W, on business: non-domestic rates, what multiplier is levied in each business improvement district that is in operation. [182613]

John Healey: For 2007-08, the national non-domestic multiplier is 44.4p and the small business multiplier is 44.1p. These apply in all areas in England, irrespective of whether a business improvement district is in operation. It is for those involved in BIDs to agree on the amount of BID levies and how they should be calculated.

Compost: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent changes the Valuation Office Agency has made to its practices employed in valuing composting facilities for business rate purposes; what guidance the Agency has produced on such practices; and under what circumstances such facilities are eligible for an agricultural rating exemption. [182336]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has recently issued advice to its valuation officers on the approach to valuing those composting facilities that are rateable. This advice is publicly accessible on the VOA website in Rating Manual volume 5 section 1119.

Where composting is carried out on a farm using material solely produced on that farm, the site will be exempt because it forms part of normal agricultural process.

Where composting material is brought on to a site and processed for compost, this will not fall within the exemption for agriculture. Such composting operations will often have contracts for processing waste with local authorities.

The valuation methodology has not changed and remains a rental method, estimating the annual value of the land and buildings occupied for non-agricultural use.

Valuation officers have a duty to maintain rating lists and will include non-exempt, non-agricultural commercial composting sites. These are often (though not always) found on otherwise exempt agricultural properties. When included in a rating list, local authorities have a duty to collect the rates due.

Council Housing: Sales

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capital receipts from sale of council housing were in each year since 1997 in each year, broken down by region. [181055]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The following table provides information on the regional totals of capital receipts from the sale of housing fixed assets as reported by local authorities over the last 10 years.

Sale of fixed assets Housing England

£ million

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
1997-98	64	129	82	73	116	142	334	235	132	1,305
1998-99	49	109	77	111	203	132	306	229	297	1,514
1999-2000	96	218	101	172	243	282	466	366	190	2,134
2000-01	235	203	141	130	250	205	596	387	173	2,320
2001-02	66	137	147	190	244	370	603	250	115	2,121
2002-03	173	392	548	239	306	386	888	282	168	3,382
2003-04	196	309	340	245	334	330	1,144	411	172	3,481
2004-05	196	304	350	198	272	309	1,177	207	130	3,142
2005-06	180	269	246	149	202	212	616	153	109	2,142
2006-07	139	216	180	134	185	161	423	194	101	1,733

Source:
Communities and Local Government Capital Outturn Returns (COR)

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of band D council tax has been in each local authority in each year since 1997. [178642]

John Healey: Details of the level of band D council tax in each local authority in England in each year since 1997-98 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Empty Property: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether vacant Crown property will be liable to pay the business rate once rate relief for empty properties has been removed. [182252]

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether empty Government premises will be liable for empty property business rates from April 2008. [183254]

John Healey: Empty property relief is not being removed. From 1 April 2008, 100 per cent. relief will be available for three months in respect of all empty non-domestic properties, and for six months for empty qualifying industrial and warehouse properties. 100 per cent. relief will continue to be available permanently for other classes of empty property which will be specified in regulations to be laid before Parliament for approval shortly.

For those empty properties in respect of which 100 per cent. relief is not available permanently, after the initial periods of 100 per cent. relief come to an end, the empty property rate will be 100 per cent. of the basic occupied rate.

The Crown is liable to pay rates on its properties in the usual way. Crown property will therefore be eligible for empty property relief for the appropriate period and after that period ends, will be subject to the normal empty property rate.

Floods: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for developments in flood risk areas were approved against the advice of the Environment Agency in each of the last three years. [176771]

Caroline Flint: Policies were first introduced to control development in areas at risk of flooding in 2001. In 2001-02, the proportion of applications approved contrary to the Environment Agency's objections on flood risk was 11 per cent., in 2006-07 the proportion was 2 per cent. This information comes from the Environment Agency's report to CLG and DEFRA (HLT5).

Floods: Planning Permission

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to introduce a power to rescind planning permission where there is a serious risk of that location flooding or if that development will cause another site to flood; and if she will make a statement. [180966]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The Secretary of State already has power under section 100 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to revoke or modify a planning permission granted by a local planning authority. Revocation or modification can only be made before a planning permission is implemented. Such intervention is justified only in exceptional circumstances and the Secretary of State will generally use this power only if the original decision is judged to be grossly wrong.

It is clearly better to ensure that up to date and relevant Government planning policy is available for local planning authorities to take into account, when planning for development and deciding planning applications. Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk", published in December 2006, provides such planning policy.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many trainee *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* energy inspectors have received a qualification from Morgan Whittaker. [171609]

Yvette Cooper: The latest figures from ABBE and City and Guilds show that there are 391 qualified home inspectors and domestic energy assessors who registered through Morgan Whittaker.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial effect of home information packs on the housing market; and what criteria and evidence she has used in making the assessment. [176086]

Caroline Flint: I refer to the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-142WS.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation process has taken place on the allowed age of an energy performance certificate in a Home Information Pack. [176227]

Caroline Flint: In line with the Government's code of practice, a formal consultation on the allowed age of an energy performance certificate in a home information pack was launched on 13 December 2007 and can be seen on the Communities and Local Government website. The consultation presents a range of scenarios and invites respondents to provide any additional evidence that should be considered. It closes on 6 March 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which unique property reference number is used to identify a property in a home condition report. [176751]

Caroline Flint: The "Unique Property Reference Number" (UPRN) generated by the Register is used to identify a property in a home condition report.

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the contractual deadline is for Ipsos Mori to complete its evaluation of the area trials for home condition reports. [173338]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Government have made to the rules and regulations relating to housing and capital receipts since 1997. [171603]

Caroline Flint: I assume that for "housing and capital receipts" the hon. Member means "local authorities' housing capital receipts". The substantial changes since 1997 to the regulations relating to these are in the following table. Any reader of the table will wish to be aware that under the "set-aside" regime, which ran until 1 April 2004, with-debt local authorities were required to set aside a proportion of the capital receipt generated by the disposal of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset, for repayment of housing debt. For right to buy that proportion was 75 per cent. For stock-transfer receipts the set-aside was also 75 per cent., unless the value of the housing debt exceeded 75 per cent., in which case the amount to be set aside was raised until it met the value of the debt. For other, non-dwelling sales, the proportion of set-aside was 50 per cent. The local authority was free to use the remaining 25 per cent./50 per cent. respectively for any capital purpose they chose.

From 1 April 2004, all local authorities were required to pay the Secretary of State the same amounts through the process of pooling which formerly would have been set aside. The exception is stock-transfer receipts which are not subject to pooling. Instead, the equivalent amounts of debt are assumed for the purposes of calculating housing subsidy to have been paid off by the authority.

Date change came into effect	*Effect of change*
1 April 1999	Reduction in the set-aside requirement for receipts arising from the sale of dwellings. The reduction being determined with reference to costs incurred by the authority in the preceding year of buying back certain properties previously sold under RTB.
23 July 1999	Exemption of certain non-monetary housing receipts from the set-aside requirement which consist of rights to nominate persons to occupy a dwelling.
5 February 2003	Facility for authorities to use all their housing receipts (except receipts arising from RTB and similar sales) for affordable housing.
1 April 2004	Replacement of the requirement for authorities with debt to set-aside a proportion of housing receipts with the requirement (for both with-debt and debt-free authorities) to pay the same amount to the Secretary of State.
16 December 2004	Exemption of receipts subject to clawback by English Partnerships from the pooling requirement.
16 December 2004	Exemption of small-scale voluntary transfers to registered social landlords from the pooling requirement.
1 April 2006	Facility for authorities to use all their receipts arising from the Social Homebuy scheme for affordable housing.

Housing: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which unique property reference number is used to identify a property in a home condition report. [173226]

Caroline Flint: The "Unique Property Reference Number" (UPRN) generated by the Register is used to identify a property in a home condition report.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of land were changed to residential use within flood risk areas in England in each year since 1997. [171567]

Caroline Flint: The Government's aim is to avoid inappropriate development in such areas. Flood risk must be taken into account at all stages of the planning process. Development that would not be safe in the higher flood risk areas should be directed to areas of lower risk wherever this is practicable. We have strengthened the system significantly—new planning rules introduced last year (PPS25) make clear that councils should not give the go ahead to new housing in areas where the Environment Agency advise against it. The new rules are already beginning to have an impact and it is vital that councils continue to work with the Environment Agency to ensure that new homes are safe from flooding and property sustainable for the future.

The total land area of England is approximately 13 million hectares. Around 10 per cent. of this is in an area of high flood risk, much of it within London and other existing urban areas. Of this high flood risk area, only around 2,500 hectares (0.2 per cent.) changed to residential use between 1997 and 2004 (the latest year for which information is available).

The following table gives the information requested for broken down by year. It relates to the period before the planning system was strengthened:

Area of residential land in high flood risk areas (hectares)[1]

	Number
1997	410
1998	345
1999[2]	n/a
2000	370
2001	375
2002	400
2003	390
2004	255

[1] Area of newly residential land with more than zero dwellings.

[2] 1999 estimates unavailable due to incomplete data

Notes:

1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table above are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007.

Source:

Land Use Change Statistics data (LUCS 22A, October 2007)

The definition of high flood risk areas used by Communities and Local Government are the high risk zone mapped by the Environment Agency as being at a probability of flooding, excluding the presence of flood defences, of at least one in one hundred each year for river flooding and at least one in two hundred for coastal flooding.

Housing: Low Incomes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many instances monies provided via key worker living have been recouped as a result of key workers leaving their profession in *(a)* East Worthing and Shoreham, *(b)* West Sussex and *(c)* across the entire scheme; what returns were recorded on the initial grant investments to key workers; what assessment she has made of the effect on the recruitment and retention of key workers of this facility; and if she will make a statement. [161921]

Caroline Flint: We do not centrally hold data on the number of instances where monies provided via the key worker living scheme have been recouped as a result of key workers leaving their profession, or what returns were recorded on the initial grant investments to key workers.

Since April 2006 purchasers of New Build HomeBuy have five years to repay the assistance they receive if they leave qualifying employment. Purchasers of Open Market HomeBuy have two years in which to repay assistance.

HomeBuy Agents monitor on-going key worker employment in their areas.

Housing: Pests

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on pest infestation control in domestic properties following last year's flooding; and if she will make a statement; [183098]

(2) what responsibilities local authorities have with regard to pest infestation in domestic properties; and if she will make a statement. [183097]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System is a risk based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced by Communities and Local Government in 2006 together with local authority operating guidance for its use.

Local authorities are responsible for the local implementation and enforcement of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. If a property is found to contain serious hazards the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action in relation to the hazard.

Infestations from mice, rats and other vermin are hazards covered by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

No local authorities have raised the issue of pest infestation in the context of flooding. We continue to keep in close contact with flood affected authorities as they recover from the summer floods.

Local Authorities: Grants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-68W, on local authorities: grants, what the grant per capita was in real terms to each local authority in England in *(a)* 1998-99, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and what the average grant per capita in (i) district councils, (ii) unitary councils, (iii) county councils, (iv) metropolitan councils and (v) London boroughs was in each of those years. [180198]

John Healey: I have deposited in the Library of the House a table showing the information on central Government grant per capita in real terms (at 2006-07 prices) for each local authority in 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The average central Government grant per capita in real terms (at 2006-07 prices) by class of authority in 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is tabled as follows.

£ per head

Class of authority	*1998-99*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
District councils	75	82	91
Unitary councils	768	1,072	1,085
County councils	578	794	800
Metropolitan councils	877	1,273	1,288
London boroughs (including City of London)	1,021	1,344	1,359

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2006-07 returns

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (Revenue support grant, police grant, general GLA grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In 1998-99, it also includes the SSA reduction grant but excludes the general GLA grant.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Per capita figures for 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are based on Office for National Statistics' (ONS) 1998, 2005 and 2006 mid-year population estimates. The real terms figures have been revalued for 1998-99 and 2005-06 years at 2006-07 prices using the latest HM Treasury's GDP deflators.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government Finance: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the revenue support grant for Derbyshire councils has been in each of the last eight years. [178593]

John Healey: The following table shows the amount of formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates, principal formula police grant, SSA reduction grant (SSA review), SSA reduction grant (police funding review) and central support protection grant, where appropriate, for Derbyshire councils for the period 2000-01 to 2007-08.

£ million

Local authority	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*Amended 2003-04*	*Amended 2004-05*	*Amended 2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Derbyshire	360.961	375.573	378.324	426.869	445.456	475.817	130.773	137.564
Derby	158.471	164.639	166.577	185.398	193.665	205.760	88.879	92.353
Amber Valley	6.434	6.901	7.175	7.871	7.396	7.755	8.981	9.348
Bolsover	4.877	5.177	5.386	5.878	5.615	5.999	7.251	7.637
Chesterfield	7.259	7.485	7.660	8.241	7.717	7.966	9.457	9.848
Erewash	6.277	6.587	6.750	7.398	7.182	7.647	8.869	9.314
High Peak	5.385	5.588	5.774	6.339	5.768	5.949	6.723	6.945

£ million

Local authority	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*Amended 2003-04*	*Amended 2004-05*	*Amended 2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North-east Derbyshire	5.064	5.262	5.387	5.915	5.763	6.099	7.238	7.592
South Derbyshire	4.450	4.612	4.727	5.199	5.048	5.415	6.324	6.703
Derbyshire Dales	4.141	4.355	4.493	4.545	4.083	4.208	4.652	4.690
Derbyshire Police	89.611	93.963	95.021	97.936	101.157	105.241	102.023	105.817
Derbyshire Fire	—	—		—	17.613	18.540	16.185	16.920

Please note that the amount of formula grant that each authority receives is not directly comparable year-on-year due to changes in funding and functions over this period.

Local Government: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 552W, on local government: standards, what additional information local authorities will need to report to support national policy development. [182906]

John Healey: We are working with other Government Departments to identify those data collections which are to be discontinued, in line with the commitment made in the Local Government White Paper, to limit data collection to that which is necessary for reasons such as financial management and policy development, and the 30 per cent. target for reduction in data burdens announced on 9 October 2007 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Non-domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the existing system of business rate reliefs and exemptions will apply to the supplementary business rate. [182580]

John Healey: "Business rate supplements: A White Paper" makes clear that, with the exception of transitional relief, existing business rates reliefs and exemptions will apply to supplements in addition to a mandatory exemption in respect of properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less.

Rural Areas: Sustainable Development

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will meet the Leader and Chief Executive of Lichfield district council and the hon. Member for Lichfield to discuss plans for an eco-village near Fradley; [169170]

(2) what consultations she has had with *(a)* district and county councils and *(b)* regional assemblies on the location of the proposed new eco-towns and villages. [169171]

Caroline Flint: We are consulting with local authorities in the relevant areas covered by proposed eco-towns in January 2008 as part of an initial assessment of bids and will also consult the regional assemblies. We expect to publish proposals shortly. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation and engagement involving hon. Members, local authorities and the public before the process is completed.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what decision-making powers the draft Marine Bill will give to the Marine Management Organisation on major infrastructure planning in the marine environment. [181606]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO) would make development consent decisions, where the UK Government have responsibility, for all development activities in the marine area with the exceptions only of:

(i) operations that relate to oil and gas exploration and exploitation, and operations relating to the construction, maintenance, protection or removal of submarine pipelines, both of which will continue to be determined under the current regimes;

(ii) offshore renewable energy projects capable of generating more than 100 megawatts of power and major port developments, which will be determined by the proposed Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). In these cases, the MMO will be a key adviser to the IPC, including on appropriate conditions on development consents.

The MMO will also decide on the appropriate monitoring and enforcement regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects as well as those it consents itself, and take enforcement action when necessary.

The MMO will be set up to be able to take on new functions in the future if that were the best way of achieving sustainable development in the marine area.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates: Recycling

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of production of recycled aggregate in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181513]

Joan Ruddock: Communities and Local Government carry out a biennial survey on the 'Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates in England'. The estimated production of recycled aggregates in England was 36.47 million tonnes in 2001, 39.60 million tonnes in 2003 and 42.07 million tonnes in 2005. No more recent figures are available.

Air Pollution: EU Law

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he or his officials have made representations to the European Commission in relation to the EU air quality framework directive on derogations for time limits on meeting pollution levels covered by the directive; and if he will make a statement. [181718]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The UK has not made any request for derogations under the current EU air quality framework directive.

The new EU directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe is expected to be adopted later this year. It provides for member states to seek approval from the European Commission for plans to meet existing limit values for particulate matter (PM_{10}) and nitrogen dioxide by extended deadlines. Any decision by the Government to apply for the extended deadlines would be subject to a full public consultation.

Air Pollution: Urban Areas

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which cities did not meet their air quality targets in the latest year for which figures are available. [181463]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK is required to report breaches of EU air quality limit values/long-term objectives to the European Commission on an annual basis. The following table provides a list of all agglomerations (urban areas with a population greater than 250,000) in which breaches occurred in 2006—this is the latest year for which fully validated data is available. The data can also be accessed via the European Environment Agency's website.

In interpreting the data, it is important to note that, in nearly all cases, the breaches occurred alongside the busiest roads in built up urban areas, such as Marylebone road in central London, and were not widespread.

The UK's recently revised Air Quality Strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on improving air quality throughout the UK.

2006 breaches of EU limit values/long-term objectives in UK agglomerations

	Nitrogen dioxide		*Particulate matter (PM_{10})*		*Ozone*
	1 hour mean limit value	*Annual mean limit value*	*Daily mean limit value*	*Annual mean limit value*	*Long term objective*
Greater London Urban Area	y	y	y	y	y
West Midlands Urban Area	—	m	m	m	y
Greater Manchester Urban Area	—	y	m	—	y
West Yorkshire Urban Area	—	m	y	—	y
Tyneside	—	m	m	—	y
Liverpool Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Sheffield Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Nottingham Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Bristol Urban Area	—	y	m	—	m
Brighton/Worthing/Littlehampton	—	m	y	—	y
Leicester Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Portsmouth Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Teesside Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
The Potteries (Stoke on Trent)	—	m	m	—	y
Bournemouth Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Reading/Wokingham Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Coventry/Bedworth	—	m	m	—	y
Kingston upon Hull	—	m	m	—	y
Southampton Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Birkenhead Urban Area	—	m	—	—	y
Southend Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y
Blackpool Urban Area	—	—	—	—	y
Preston Urban Area	—	m	—	—	y
Glasgow Urban Area	—	y	y	—	m
Edinburgh Urban Area	—	m	—	—	y
Cardiff Urban Area	—	m	—	—	y
Swansea Urban Area	—	—	—	—	y
Belfast Urban Area	—	m	m	—	y

— indicates no breach; y indicates a monitored breach; m indicates a modelled breach.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Energy Generation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the environment of payments to UK energy companies under the EU emissions trading scheme. [181432]

Mr. Woolas: No payments have been made to UK energy companies under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) although they have received free allowances which have a value. In the first two years of the EU ETS (2005 and 2006) the power sector was allocated 136.9 million tonnes, compared with emissions of 174.04 million tonnes in 2003. In 2006 the power sector emitted 45.9 million tonnes above its allocation, leading to a requirement for UK energy companies to buy allowances from other installations, thereby ensuring that total emissions remained within the EU cap.

Fisheries: Yorkshire and The Humber

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has conducted of the levels of fish and shellfish off the coast of Yorkshire. [182706]

Jonathan Shaw: Both the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) operate a routine sampling programme in order to determine the quantities and size-range of fish and shellfish landed by UK vessels operating off the Yorkshire coast. Cefas also monitors fishery discards by placing scientific observers on board fishing vessels.

Additionally, the levels of fish and shellfish stocks off the Yorkshire coast are studied during trawling and potting surveys funded under the Fishery Science Partnership and also Cefas's annual third quarter trawl survey of the North Sea.

Flood Control

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in implementing the 15 urgent recommendations of the Pitt review; and if he will make a statement. [182703]

Mr. Woolas: We have accepted all the urgent recommendations from the interim report of the Pitt review and are working with other organisations involved in taking them forward as quickly as possible.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has in relation to a joint fund with insurance companies to enable leaseholders at risk of flooding to *(a)* improve defences and *(b)* re-locate. [182227]

Mr. Woolas: Total central and local government spend on management of flood and coastal erosion risk will be some £600 million this year, rising incrementally to £800 million in 2010-11. This will be invested largely in works on the ground carried out by the operating authorities, the Environment Agency, local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards, to benefit many communities around the country. We are undertaking a joint review with the Association of British Insurers of its Statement of Principles in relation to insurance and flood risk but there are no plans for a joint fund with insurance companies at present.

Fly Tipping: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the clean-up of fly tipping in the District of Easington in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2007. [182915]

Joan Ruddock: Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents, estimated clearance costs and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Fly Tipping: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department collects on the number of fines issued by local authorities for fly-tipping offences in relation to putting out household rubbish *(a)* at the wrong time, *(b)* in breach of a closed lid policy and *(c)* in breach of a no side waste collection policy. [182223]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 753W.

Fly Tipping: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the total cost of clean-up of fly-tipping was in Wirral, South in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 1997; [182307]

(2) how many incidents of fly-tipping there were in Wirral, South in the past *(a)* year, *(b)* five years and *(c)* 10 years. [182308]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents, estimated clearance costs and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Inland Waterways

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of miles of inland waterways are *(a)* publicly owned, *(b)* privately owned and not accessible by the public and *(c)* privately owned and accessible by the public. [181962]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA sponsors the three main navigation authorities—British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority—which together manage approximately 2,800 miles of inland waterways in England and Wales for public benefit. The Department does not hold information relating to other waterways.

Landfill: Health Hazards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has conducted on the potential hazards of re-using landfill sites for recreational land. [182309]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: DEFRA has not carried out any recent research on the potential hazards of re-using landfill sites for recreational land.

However, the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) has conducted research looking at the remedial engineering aspects associated with closed landfills and has produced a report written specifically with redevelopers in mind. The principles of the approach laid out in the report draw heavily from the substantive research conducted by the former Department of the Environment and the Environment Agency in the 1980s and 1990s.

The document (Barry et al (2001) Remedial Engineering for Closed Landfill Sites, Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report C557, ISBN 0-86017-557-X) provides guidance to designers and regulators on the principal statutory, technical and environmental factors which can influence the redevelopment of former landfill sites. The report summarises that the suitability of sites for particular uses will depend on several factors such as age, depth and nature of wastes, in addition to the site's environmental setting and conventional land-use planning aspects of redevelopment.

Landfill: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Wirral, South's waste was put into landfill in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2003. [182297]

Joan Ruddock: The metropolitan borough of Wirral is a Waste Collection Authority and disposal statistics are not therefore available. However, percentages for Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority show 77.57 per cent. of its waste was landfilled in 2006-07 and 91.3 per cent. in 2002-03.

Marine Manifesto Organisation

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on implementing the 2005 manifesto commitment to create a marine manifesto organisation. [183102]

Jonathan Shaw: As set out in the White Paper "A Sea Change", published in March 2007, the UK Government intends to use the Marine Bill to set up a new marine management organisation to deliver many of our objectives for the marine area.

The Government are committed to publishing a draft Marine Bill as part of the legislative programme in this 2007-08 session of Parliament. We expect this will be in the spring of 2008. The timetable for the introduction of a Marine Bill to, and passage through, Parliament will be subject to the outcome of scrutiny of the draft Bill and the availability of parliamentary time.

Alongside preparing the legislation, we are planning the practical steps to be taken to set up the organisation.

Nitrates: Pollution

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the water industry on the use of anaerobic digesters on farms to reduce nitrate pollution. [182046]

Mr. Woolas: My Department is committed to making the most of the potential of anaerobic digestion to contribute to our climate change and wider environmental objectives, including reducing nitrate pollution. A number of discussions have taken place with water stakeholders including companies.

We are encouraging and facilitating communication between interested parties in industry, regulators, government delivery bodies and non-governmental bodies about meeting these goals.

We will work with stakeholders, including the water industry, to develop and disseminate information on best practice and technology for the use of anaerobic digestion in a way that is both cost effective and beneficial to the environment, for example, through DEFRA's New Technologies Demonstrator Programme and through advice to farmers.

More information on anaerobic digestion and what action the Government are taking to support its uptake is available in the Anaerobic Digestion Working Paper, published alongside the UK Biomass Strategy and on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/climatechange/uk/energy/renewablefuel/pdf/ukbio0507-work3.pdf

Plastics: Biodegradability

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce a *(a)* quality assurance scheme and *(b)* kite mark for biodegradable plastics. [175742]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have no plans for a new quality assurance scheme or kite mark for biodegradable plastics.

One of the main applications for biodegradable plastics in the UK at present is in packaging where agreed standards already exist. Since the development of the ED packaging regulations, the European standard for compostable and biodegradable packaging—EN 13432—has been adopted in the UK. BS EN 13427:2000 provides a framework within which this and four other standards (BS EN 13429, BS EN 13430, BS EN 13431, and BS EN 13432) may be used together to support a claim that packaging is in compliance with the essential requirements for it to be placed on the market, as required by the Directive

These standards ensure that a product is biodegradable, compostable, and safe. In order to gain certification to BS EN13432, the final product must be fully tested and approved. Only if it is certified under BS EN13432, is it acceptable for recovery through biological treatment under the UK packaging recovery note scheme.

There are a number of certification bodies across the EU. In the UK the main one is the Composting Association, which operates a certification scheme in partnership with the German certification body, Din Certco.

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 521W, on plastics: recycling, if he will commission research to determine the amount of *(a)* non-bottle shaped and *(b)* bottled shaped domestic plastics packaging that is (i) recycled into new products in the UK, (ii) landfilled and (iii) exported for reprocessing in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [181662]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has no plans to commission specific research on the destination of non-bottle shaped and bottle-shaped plastic packaging originating from the household waste stream. Various data are already collected by this Department and HM Treasury on the handling and destination of plastic packaging.

Based on 2006 figures, the UK recovered 457 kilotonnes of plastic; comprising 22 per cent. of all plastic packaging entering the waste stream, which amounts to approximately 2.12 million tonnes. 166 kilotonnes of the plastic recovered is reprocessed in the UK and 291 kilotonnes is exported.

It is estimated that non-bottle mixed plastic packaging arising from the domestic waste stream is around one million tonnes per year. In 2006, around 132,000 tonnes of plastic bottles were collected and recycled from UK households.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is undertaking trials with a number of technologies with the aim of understanding the best ways to handle mixed plastics from an environmental, economical and technological perspective. The programme is investigating three main areas: collection, reprocessing, and end markets. Different recycling and recovery options are being considered as part of this work, including reprocessing mixed plastics into new plastics, incineration, chemical treatment and even turning them into diesel. WRAP'S focus on mixed plastics follows on from the successful uptake of plastic bottle recycling.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his strategy is for increasing the number of facilities for reprocessing plastic waste in the UK. [182380]

Joan Ruddock: According to studies carried out by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on the plastic processing capacity/supply relationship, the indication is that the UK, along with most of Europe, in fact has excess capacity to process plastic waste. The exception to this is for plastic bottles, and to some extent waste electrical and electronic equipment plastics, where growth in collection has supported a substantial growth in reprocessing capacity.

However, this is a complex area, and much of the existing capacity is too old, too small or targeting the wrong end products. Many plants are therefore investing in new capacity or updating and consolidating existing plants, some with support from WRAP. WRAP has a number of projects designed to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate, including plastic, used in UK manufacturing operations.

WRAP'S focus on mixed plastics follows on from the successful uptake of plastic bottle recycling. Plastic bottle recycling has significantly increased in recent years, with around 132,000 tonnes of plastic bottles collected and recycled from UK households in 2006.

Sustainable Development

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Sustainable Development Commission to publish its Sustainable Development in Government report for 2006-07. [181960]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's independent watchdog, the Sustainable Development Commission, is due to publish its "Sustainable Development in Government" report for 2006-07 in mid-March 2008.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Waste

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has given to waste collection authorities on *(a)* closed lid policies and *(b)* no side waste collection policies. [182224]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether households on council tax benefit will be liable for the proposed new household rubbish collection charge in the pilot areas. [182272]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 8 January, *Official Report*, column 393W.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on providing fortnightly collections for *(a)* recycling and *(b)* household rubbish; if he will place a copy of the guidance in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [182371]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has not provided guidance to local authorities on fortnightly collections of household waste. However, the DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has published guidance for local authorities on the design and implementation of alternate collection services, which is available from WRAP's website.

Copies of this guidance have already been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalty may be imposed on people who not do pay the levied charge in a pilot area for the proposed new household rubbish collection charge scheme. [182424]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 January, *Official Report*, column 1497W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 868W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, if he will place in the Library a copy of the 2006 DEFRA research reports into *(a)* bonfire smoke complaints and *(b)* emissions of dioxins. [183160]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated; and if he will make a statement. [183101]

Joan Ruddock: In general, arisings of hazardous waste continue to decline and the Government, along with the Environment Agency in England and Wales, continues to pursue policies to encourage this process. For example, the Environment Agency-sponsored HazRed scheme encouraged small and medium sized enterprises in six key sectors to minimise and manage hazardous waste. Although the scheme is now closed, businesses and industry continue to learn from its lessons.

Other policies, such as those in the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (ROHS) aim to reduce the amount of hazardous components and materials in certain products, which in turn leads to reductions in hazardous waste arisings.

In addition to the efforts to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated, the Government are seeking ways to recover material and energy from hazardous waste, as well as ensuring its safe treatment and disposal.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of waste the Waste and Resources Action Programme disposed of in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of total residual waste this represented. [182222]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) recycles or composts 84 per cent. of the waste it produces, capturing 95 per cent. of the materials it is currently able to recycle. The remaining 16 per cent. is sent for residual waste management. This represents approximately 2 tonnes of waste per annum and 10 tonnes of recycling and composting.

The amount of waste produced, including recycling, is 57kg per office based employee. This is substantially below the Government's best practice level of 200kg per employee, set in Information Note 17/2000 by the Central Advice Unit of Property Advisers to the Civil Estate.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which other governments he plans to send copies of 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' document this year; and if he will make a statement; [181195]

(2) to which other governments the 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' document has been sent; on which date the document was sent in each instance; and if he will make a statement. [181198]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK has led efforts to recruit more conservation-minded countries to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) through our publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility'. This publication has recently been updated and was re-released on 21 December 2007. In the coming weeks, posts will deliver the updated version to host governments, and will continue to engage in discussions with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity.

This year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written to 18 countries, encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' has been sent to over 60 countries, both anti and pro-whaling, encouraging them to join the effort to protect these species. Listing these countries could compromise our efforts to persuade them to join the IWC and adopt an anti-whaling stance.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many bedrooms each of the three official ministerial residences in Admiralty House has; [176345]

(2) how much has been spent from the public purse on beds for the official ministerial residences in Admiralty House since 1997. [176511]

Mr. Watson: One flat has one or two bedrooms, depending on the configuration adopted. The other two flats have between two and four bedrooms, also depending on the configuration adopted. Information on the purchase of furniture is not held centrally.

Cabinet Committees: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will reconsider the Government's practice on the disclosure of information on the attendance at and activities of Cabinet Committees. [181102]

Mr. Watson: It has been the practice of successive governments not to disclose the details of attendance at and activities of Cabinet Committees.

My hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Wills) announced on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 19WS, that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor have asked Paul Dacre, working with Professor David Cannadine and Sir Joseph Pilling, to review the length of time after which public records are released, currently 30 years. Any changes made as a result of this review may affect the release of details of attendance at and discussions within Cabinet Committees in the relevant time period.

The review is now in progress and will report to the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor by summer 2008.

Civil Service: Codes of Practice

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 916W, on official hospitality, if he will amend the *(a)* Ministerial Code and *(b)* Civil Service Code to introduce specific guidance on making bets (i) with and (ii) via a commercial organisation on political events; [180432]

(2) if he will initiate an investigation into whether any breaches of the Civil Service Code occurred in relation to movements in the political betting market on 6 October 2007 on the date of any future general election. [180639]

Mr. Watson: The Government believe the principles set out in the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code continue to be appropriate. No further action is planned.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180217]

Mr. Watson: Information on the number of requests received by the Cabinet Office is published by the Ministry of Justice:

http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

Responses published by the Cabinet Office are available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/foi/reading_room.aspx

In addition, the Cabinet Office publishes on an annual basis information about Cabinet Ministers' visits overseas, gifts received by Ministers' valued at more than £140 and the names and cost of special advisers. The Government are also committed to an annual list of relevant Ministers' interests and details of all Ministers' overseas visits costing more than £500.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years; [182728]

(2) how much the Cabinet Office paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182731]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information on which bonuses were paid specifically to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For overall information on bonuses paid I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 913W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond), which gives information on bonuses paid to Cabinet Office staff since 2003.

Departmental Pay

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many employees of the Prime Minister's Office were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173105]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Members of the Senior Civil Service are paid under arrangements determined by the Senior Salaries Review Body. SCS bonuses represent 7.6 per cent. of the total SCS pay bill.

The number of Senior Civil Servants in the Cabinet Office is published by ONS in the annual Civil Service Statistics, this can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179007]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The Cabinet Office and its related departmental bodies do not directly employ 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers for public access to services.

Honours: Criminal Investigation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W, on honours: criminal investigation, and with reference to the letter of 18 December 2007 from the Cabinet Secretary to the Chairman of the Public Administration Committee, which lawyers were commissioned to provide external legal advice. [181342]

Edward Miliband: The law firms commissioned to provide external legal advice were Eversheds LLP, Peters & Peters, and Russell Jones & Walker.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W, on Honours: Criminal Investigation, and with reference to the letter of 18 December 2007 from the Cabinet Secretary to the Chairman of the Public Administration Committee, what the cost was to the public purse of the external legal advice and support for the right hon. Tony Blair. [181343]

Edward Miliband: The right hon. Tony Blair received no external legal advice and support. Therefore there was no cost to the public purse.

Ministers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many Ministers have held more than *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine and *(j)* 10 ministerial positions in the last 10 years; [181475]

(2) how many ministerial positions there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by Government Department. [181476]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) to the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2225W.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what increase in ministerial pay there was in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the 1997 level of ministerial pay each increase represents. [181477]

Mr. Watson: Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf

and in the Library of the House.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of non-departmental public bodies changed their names in each of the last 10 years. [181502]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The names of all non-departmental public bodies are listed in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Information for 1998 to 2006 can be downloaded from:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Information for 2007 will be published shortly.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when he will publish information on the number and expenditure of non-departmental public bodies for 2007; [181481]

(2) how many non-departmental public bodies there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by Government Department. [182651]

Mr. Watson: Information on non-departmental public bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office. Information covering the period 1998 to 2006 appears in the "Public Bodies" publications. These can be downloaded from the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Information for 2007 will be published shortly.

Youth Volunteering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1172W, on youth volunteering, what *(a)* local, *(b)* regional and *(c)* national organisations v has commissioned to provide volunteering opportunities. [182847]

Phil Hope: Details of the projects funded by v can be found on their website at:

www.wearev.com

Copies of the list of funded projects has also been placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

The Office of the Third Sector have also provided funding in this financial year to the following organisations that provide or promote youth volunteering opportunities: Youthnet UK (£461,300), National Youth Agency (£307,500), Youth Action Network (£153,800) and the British Youth Council (£92,300).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school leavers from academy schools entered *(a)* employment and *(b)* other educational establishments upon leaving in the latest period for which figures are available; and what is the comparative average figure for other types of school. [181032]

Jim Knight: The Department's estimates of the number and proportion young people in employment, education and training can be found at the following link but they cannot be disaggregated by prior institution:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/sfr22 2007.pdf

However it is possible to produce estimates of the proportion of academic age[1] 16-year-olds in education and Work Based Learning by school type at age 15 using matched administrative data. This will slightly underestimate participation compared to official estimates as it does not cover all those participating on post-16 education or training. It is not possible to produce estimates of those young people in employment by prior institution in this way.

Table 1 shows the proportion of 15-year-olds in (i) academies and (ii) all other maintained schools that go on to participate in education and Work Based

Learning at age 16. The table shows that the proportion in education (81 per cent.) and in Work Based Learning (5 per cent.) in the year following the completion of compulsory education is the same for both groups of young people.

[1] Academic age is the age of the individual measured at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August. Academic age 16 is the first year after compulsory education, i.e. year 12.

Table 1 participation of 16-year-olds in education and Work Based Learning (WBL) by school attended at age 15, England

	Not in education or WBL[1]	In education	In WBL
			Percentage
Academies	14	81	5
All other maintained schools[2]	14	81	5

[1] This group will include those in employer funded training that is not WBL, those attending independent colleges or training centres and some individuals in part time education.

[2] Excludes those in independent schools or colleges and pupil referral units.

Source:

Matched administrative data, 19 in 2008 cohort

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms have been established to co-ordinate policy on youth crime and antisocial behaviour with other Departments. [167118]

Beverley Hughes: Government's response to youth crime is cross-cutting. Home Office retains the lead on crime and antisocial behaviour, and is overseeing the development of the forthcoming Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP). The Department has lead policy responsibility for youth crime prevention, while the newly established Joint Youth Justice Unit (shared between my Department and the Ministry of Justice) is responsible for advising Ministers about the youth justice system.

Youth offending is linked to a number of other negative outcomes, including substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and truancy. That is why the Paths to Success PSA sets out our vision for a more integrated approach to supporting vulnerable young people. Progress will be overseen by the Ministerial Committee on Families, Children and Young People and monitored by a cross-cutting official-level Board led by my Department.

The Youth Taskforce has been created within my Department to help drive improvements in integrated delivery for young people across a range of outcomes, including tackling youth crime and antisocial behaviour, and will publish an action plan in the spring setting out how it will do so.

Assessments: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals pupils did not obtain level 4 in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics key stage 2 tests in 2007; [182747]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils who were not eligible for free school meals obtained level 4 in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 tests in 2007. [182762]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the following table. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage achieving expected level (level 4) in KS2 English

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (revised)	2007 (provisional)
FSM	53	54	58	60	61	62
Non FSM	79	79	81	82	83	83
Gap	26	25	23	22	22	21

Percentage achieving expected level (level 4) in KS2 mathematics

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (revised)	2007 (provisional)
FSM	54	53	55	56	58	60
Non FSM	70	76	78	78	79	80
Gap	16	23	23	22	21	20

Percentage achieving expected level (level 4) in KS2 science

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (revised)	2007 (provisional)
FSM	72	72	71	72	73	75
Non FSM	82	89	89	89	89	90
Gap	10	17	18	17	16	15

Assessments: Manpower

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is made available from central Government funds for examination officers; at what grades they are employed by local authorities; what arrangements are in place for *(a)* their continuing professional development and *(b)* the monitoring of standards; what steps he has taken to ensure recruitment and retention to support the introduction of diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [181016]

Jim Knight: Examination officers are employed directly by schools and colleges. The grade at which they are employed is determined by their job description, which should be referenced against nationally agreed scales for salary and grading based on the specified duties and levels of responsibility.

The National Assessment Agency (NAA), a division of the qualifications and curriculum authority, is responsible for supporting the operational delivery of examinations locally, and within this remit to support examination officers. The NAA provides training courses for new examination officers, a field team which provides tailored support and advice, and online resources. A specific programme on the administration of the diploma is supporting retention through keeping examination officers fully informed about the arrangements for these new qualifications.

The monitoring of operational standards within the examinations system is undertaken by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), representing the awarding bodies which provide general qualifications.

Autism

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to improve the services offered by his Department for people with autism and Asperger's syndrome in the next 10 years. [181560]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not offer services for people with autism and Asperger's syndrome directly. However, the Department, through the national strategies, will continue to implement its long-term special educational needs (SEN) strategy removing barriers to achievement, aimed at bringing improvements in provision for all children with SEN, including those with autistic spectrum disorders. Part of the strategy is the inclusion development programme which in its next phase will focus on autism, developing practical materials to help teachers address autistic children's needs and providing cascaded training for school staff. The Department's Autism Working Group will be involved in this initiative and will continue to play a part in the Department's support for improvements in autism provision.

The Department will continue to work with partners to improve provision for disabled children and their families. Under aiming high for disabled children over the coming three years we will be working with local authorities and others to improve information for parents, the provision of short breaks and support for young people at transition to adulthood, all extremely important areas of provision for children with autism and their families. We will also work with the voluntary, independent and statutory organisations represented by the Autism Education Trust, which we are helping to establish with set-up funding, to bring further improvements to provision for autistic children and their families.

Children: Day Care

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the total capacity of children's day care centres in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what steps the Government are taking to increase this figure in 2008. [181687]

Beverley Hughes: Information is available only at local authority and Government office region level.

The figures for Essex local authority and inner and outer London are shown in the table.

Registered child care places at 31 March 2007[1]

	Essex local authority	*Inner London*	*Outer London*
Childminders	7,900	12,200	30,000
Full day care	11,800	37,300	43,000
Sessional day care	10,200	5,600	19,700
Out of school day care	6,000	25,900	33,400
Creche day care	900	4,000	3,400
All	36,800	85,000	129,400

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100. *Source:* Ofsted.

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, September 2007", which is available on their website, www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

The local authorities concerned will be required from 1 April 2008 to secure sufficient child care for working parents in their area. It will be for them to decide, in the light of their assessments of the sufficiency of child care, whether additional places are needed.

Children: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate the Government have made of the total number of children not meeting the two hour sport and physical education public service agreement target. [181784]

Kevin Brennan: The PE and school sport public service agreement set out in the comprehensive spending review 2004 is for 85 per cent. of 5 to 6-year-olds to be participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport by September 2008. The 2006/07 school sport survey found that 86 per cent. of 5 to 16-year-olds were doing the two hours. Around 900,000 5 to 16-year-olds are currently not doing the two hours, but we expect this number to reduce significantly by September 2008.

Children's Centres: Graduates

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children's centres in each local authority employs at least one graduate. [182072]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The information is not available in the form requested. Sure Start Children's Centres that provide integrated early learning and full day care (early years provision) are required to employ a graduate with qualified teacher status. This will include all centres serving the most disadvantaged communities and centres in less disadvantaged communities where full early years learning and care is provided on site to meet local demand. Local authorities confirm the teacher is in post when they seek designation for a Sure Start Children's Centre. There may also be graduates working as managers or in other professional capacities in centres. The proportion of centres with graduates will therefore vary from authority to authority depending on a variety of local factors.

Children's Centres: Standards

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which *(a)* regions and *(b)* local authority areas has the target to provide a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community by 2008 been met to date. [178700]

Beverley Hughes: The target for a Sure Start children's centre for every community is 2010 not 2008. Local authorities in all regions are making good progress and we are on course to achieve the Government's interim target of 2,500 Sure Start children's centres by 2008.

Climate Change: Curriculum

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to make the teaching of climate change and its implications for the future part of the curriculum; and if his Department will consider combining physical education with green activities, such as planting trees. [182743]

Kevin Brennan: Under both the current national curriculum in England for science and the new science curriculum to be taught in schools from September 2008, pupils aged 11-14 are taught about renewable energy and the possible impact of human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, on the environment. The current geography curriculum for 11 to 14-year-olds requires pupils to be taught about resource planning and management issues, for example developing alternative energy sources. From September 2008, "environmental interaction and sustainable development" will be one of the key concepts in the new geography curriculum for 11 to 14-year-olds with a requirement to study climate change.

Getting young people involved in activities such as cycling is also of great value in promoting habits that are both environmentally friendly promoting personal health and wellbeing.

In addition, the Growing Schools initiative encourages, supports and inspires all schools to harness the full potential of the living world as a cross-curricular teaching and learning resource, both within and beyond the school grounds. The programme focuses particularly on food, farming and environmental issues and on ensuring pupils are given first hand, practical experience in the outdoor classroom.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* Tyne and Wear and *(b)* Houghton and Washington East constituency were eligible for education maintenance allowance at (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 in the last three years. [181552]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). They hold information about take-up, at local authority level, since the scheme was rolled out nationally from September 2004. This information is published on the LSC website and is updated every month. It can be found at:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

One of the criteria used to assess eligibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) is the household income of the young person. Since we cannot estimate this with accuracy at a local level, and not everyone who is eligible for EMA takes it up, it is not possible to provide estimates of the number of EMA eligible pupils.

Education Visits: Bureaucracy

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the administrative burdens associated with undertaking an outdoor school trip. [182920]

Jim Knight: In the Children's Plan published earlier this month we said that we will ensure that schools and local authorities take a proportionate approach to health and safety to allow children to take risks while staying safe. Through the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto we are already working with local authorities, sector bodies and school work force representatives to provide up to date guidance, resources and training modules. These will make it clear that all young people should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development whatever their age or circumstances, and provide schools with the tools they need to make these opportunities available. We are also standardising quality and safety accreditation schemes so that schools can be confident in using external venues. This work includes revising our existing guidance "The Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits" and we will expect local authorities to adopt these straightforward procedures when the guidance becomes available later this year.

Emergency Protection Orders

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with local authority children's services on their use of emergency protection orders; and if he will make a statement. [181856]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not had any recent discussions with local authority children's services on their use of emergency protection orders (EPOs). We strengthened guidance on the use of EPOs in revised guidance to local authorities, "Working Together to Safeguard Children", issued in 2006. This guidance makes clear that emergency action normally takes place following an inter-agency strategy discussion and that, where a single agency has to act immediately to protect a child, a strategy discussion should take place as soon as possible. It also explains that legal advice should normally be obtained before initiating legal action, in particular when an EPO is to be sought. Through the Children and Young Persons Bill, we are amending the legislative provision for EPOs to remove an anomaly identified by the courts in equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland.

English: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the findings of the pilot stage tests in English and mathematics taken by 40,000 pupils in December 2007. [182455]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* In December 2007, 22,543 pupils took a total of 42,833 tests in the first round of single level tests as part of the Making Good Progress pilot. As this is the first pilot of a new assessment instrument, the National Assessment Agency is reviewing the outcomes from those tests before we release them to the individual schools which participated. We expect to publish overall results as part of PricewaterhouseCoopers' independent evaluation of the first year of the pilot.

Free School Meals: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were in receipt of free school meals in Easington in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [182657]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1] [2]: School meal arrangements, Easington parliamentary constituency, position in January each year, 2004-07

	Maintained nursery and primary schools					Maintained secondary schools				
	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]	% taking free school meals[4]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	% known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals[4]	% taking free school meals[4]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	% known to be eligible for free school meals
2004	7,914	1,786	22.6	2,131	26.9	4,833	763	15.8	1,032	21.4
2005	7,646	1,667	21.8	2,043	26.7	4,795	695	14.5	1,124	23.4
2006	7,505	1,531	20.4	1,894	25.2	4,813	640	13.3	1,089	22.6
2007	7,462	1,536	20.6	1,906	25.5	4,756	646	13.6	1,004	21.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

[4] Relates to the number of pupils who actually took a free school meal on the say of the census in January.

Source:

School Census

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat more than 15 GCSEs in each year since 1997. [182230]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-Level (i) history and (ii) geography in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last 10 years; and what results were achieved. [181479]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of pupils in Bexley achieving each grade in GCSE geography and history in 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Grade										
	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Absent	Total entries
Geography											
2007	69	149	143	233	107	52	24	20	19	1	817
2006	105	104	132	191	121	70	32	14	12	1	782
2005	94	123	147	216	168	98	47	21	24	1	939
2004	63	108	154	241	153	76	38	20	24	1	878
2003	66	140	158	216	147	91	61	24	17	5	925
2002	81	143	199	321	205	129	92	36	31	3	1,240
2001	59	115	159	243	149	90	57	20	14	1	907
2000	59	115	159	243	149	90	57	20	14	1	907
1999	48	138	158	245	175	91	60	18	13	6	952
1998	40	140	178	244	202	138	84	36	24	4	1,090
History											
2007	96	217	238	230	151	78	51	24	15	1	1,101
2006	89	187	257	252	179	93	49	19	5	3	1,133
2005	63	163	236	257	167	118	47	25	17	3	1,096
2004	70	143	227	239	142	96	52	24	8	2	1,003
2003	66	146	195	209	126	117	67	33	15	1	975
2002	69	159	213	240	170	118	109	54	36	10	1,178
2001	42	139	207	241	153	95	74	27	27	1	1,006
2000	42	139	207	241	153	95	74	27	27	1	1,006
1999	46	111	194	184	167	120	66	50	30	1	969
1998	34	116	215	186	153	101	63	44	15	6	933

Note:

Figures relate to 15-year-olds, (age at the beginning of the academic year, ie 31 August), in all schools

Number of pupils in Bexley achieving each grade in GCE A-level geography and history in 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Grade						
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*Other*	*Entries*
Geography							
2007	34	28	35	16	6	1	120
2006	20	21	24	27	8	2	102
2005	21	30	30	28	5	7	121
2004	13	29	31	13	15	4	105
2003	28	30	25	20	11	3	117
2002	22	23	32	18	13	2	110
2001	23	31	24	20	14	7	119
2000	23	21	25	16	15	8	108
1999	12	32	33	32	17	6	132
1998	23	24	35	33	20	18	153
History							
2007	54	62	72	55	11	1	255
2006	33	46	48	36	30	5	198
2005	31	47	47	41	21	11	198
2004	30	49	45	43	23	2	192
2003	39	46	35	39	21	1	181
2002	19	36	39	35	25	4	158
2001	19	25	41	38	29	20	172
2000	9	18	27	37	30	30	151
1999	10	23	33	23	24	33	146
1998	11	31	40	42	32	18	174

Notes:

1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at the start of the academic year, ie 31 August) in all schools and colleges

2. Other includes, 'U', 'Near Misses' and 'Absent'.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals who attained level 5 at Key Stage 3 in 2005 did not obtain five GCSEs at grade C or above in 2007; [182228]

(2) how many pupils not eligible for free school meals who attained level 5 in Key Stage 3 tests in 2005 did not obtain five GCSEs at grade C or above in 2007; [182229]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* not entitled to free school meals who gained level 4 in Key Stage 2 tests in 2004 did not gain level 5 in their Key Stage 3 tests. [182238]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gifted Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been identified in each local authority as gifted and talented in each year since 2005. [177222]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number and proportion of students identified as gifted and talented by maintained primary and secondary schools for each English local authority in 2006 and 2007. National data on gifted and talented pupils has only been collected since 2006.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2], position as at summer each year 2006 and 2007, by local authority area and government office region in England

		2006			2007					
		Maintained secondary schools[3]			Maintained primary schools			Maintained secondary schools[3]		
		No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]
	England[5]	3,294,710	373,160	11.3	4,137,620	302,850	7.3	3,256,370	425,830	13.1
	North East[5]	173,910	19,190	11.0	211,430	17,100	8.1	171,960	20,390	11.9
841	Darlington	6,229	949	15.2	8,865	380	4.3	6,117	1,082	17.7
840	Durham	32,305	3,899	12.1	41,264	3,846	9.3	31,998	3,688	11.5
390	Gateshead	11,689	860	7.4	16,031	1,338	8.3	11,629	816	7.0
805	Hartlepool	6,457	1,034	16.0	9,099	937	10.3	6,571	1,231	18.7
806	Middlesbrough	5,583	580	10.4	13,896	1,033	7.4	5,477	590	10.8
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	16,589	2,040	12.3	19,399	2,041	10.5	16,479	2,211	13.4
392	North Tyneside	13,597	1,428	10.5	16,146	1,177	7.3	13,573	1,156	8.5
929	Northumberland	29,803	1,900	6.4	19,479	1,084	5.6	29,484	2,990	10.1
807	Redcar and Cleveland	10,004	1,559	15.6	13,279	1,125	8.5	9,822	1,490	15.2
393	South Tyneside	9,960	881	8.8	12,547	176	1.4	9,726	1,686	17.3
808	Stockton-on-Tees	12,587	1,823	14.5	17,580	1,135	6.5	12,396	1,479	11.9
394	Sunderland	19,103	2,239	11.7	23,846	2,830	11.9	18,688	1,975	10.6
	North West[5]	461,240	61,860	11.2	588,180	42,830	7.3	451,200	58,040	12.9
889	Blackburn with Darwen	9,693	1,165	12.0	14,514	725	5.0	9,624	1,192	12.4
890	Blackpool	8,657	624	7.2	11,690	888	7.6	8,596	967	11.2
350	Bolton	19,561	1,844	9.4	25,642	1,123	4.4	19,129	2,554	13.4
351	Bury	11,819	1,902	16.1	16,095	181	1.1	11,608	1,680	14.5

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2], position as at summer each year 2006 and 2007, by local authority area and government office region in England

		2006			*2007*					
		Maintained secondary schools[1]			*Maintained primary schools*			*Maintained secondary schools[1]*		
		No of pupils[2]	*No of gifted and talented pupils[2]*	*% of gifted and talented pupils[4]*	*No of pupils[2]*	*No of gifted and talented pupils[2]*	*% of gifted and talented pupils[4]*	*No of pupils[2]*	*No of gifted and talented pupils[2]*	*% of gifted and talented pupils[4]*
875	Cheshire	46,741	6,338	13.6	53,568	4,432	8.3	45,924	6,074	13.2
909	Cumbria	35,554	3,255	9.2	39,518	2,304	5.8	35,147	3,685	10.5
876	Halton	8,032	998	12.4	10,074	154	1.5	7,985	905	11.3
340	Knowsley	9,487	650	6.9	15,284	694	4.5	9,061	654	7.2
888	Lancashire	74,879	8,334	11.1	91,872	10,242	11.1	72,907	10,200	14.0
341	Liverpool	31,895	3,161	9.9	37,774	2,653	7.0	30,048	3,995	13.3
352	Manchester	23,435	2,915	12.4	40,931	3,510	8.6	23,086	3,524	15.3
353	Oldham	16,524	1,564	9.5	23,278	955	4.1	16,249	1,761	10.8
354	Rochdale	14,071	2,082	14.8	19,423	928	4.8	13,647	2,044	15.0
355	Salford	11,772	1,624	13.8	19,008	813	4.3	11,327	1,569	13.9
343	Sefton	20,311	1,847	9.1	23,073	1,833	7.9	19,834	1,972	9.9
342	St. Helens	11,776	704	6.0	15,280	1,534	10.0	11,508	885	7.7
356	Stockport	16,351	1,785	10.9	22,918	1,136	5.0	15,970	1,928	12.1
357	Tameside	15,638	1,477	9.4	19,926	1,537	7.7	15,347	2,413	15.7
358	Trafford	16,229	2,229	13.7	19,150	896	4.7	16,170	2,186	13.5
877	Warrington	14,010	1,985	14.2	17,514	1,525	8.7	13,922	2,290	16.4
359	Wigan	20,862	2,451	11.7	25,705	2,324	9.0	20,540	2,222	10.8
344	Wirral	23,940	2,922	12.2	25,939	2,438	9.4	23,575	3,342	14.2
	Yorkshire and the Humber[5]	344,320	37,500	10.9	442,930	31,350	7.1	337,320	39,050	11.6
370	Barnsley	13,712	1,595	11.6	20,263	1,217	6.6	13,259	1,516	11.4
380	Bradford	33,947	3,848	11.3	51,866	4,940	9.5	33,705	3,795	11.3
381	Calderdale	15,396	2,207	14.3	18,379	2,038	11.1	15,364	1,814	11.8
371	Doncaster	20,284	2,000	9.9	26,872	2,122	7.9	20,015	1,946	9.7
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	23,444	2,239	9.6	25,760	1,807	7.0	23,264	2,684	11.5
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	15,714	1,910	12.2	22,023	2,377	10.8	15,308	1,501	9.8
382	Kirklees	26,524	2,176	8.2	35,718	2,249	6.3	26,362	3,152	12.0
383	Leeds	47,645	3,506	7.4	61,647	3,011	4.9	46,363	4,674	10.1
812	North East Lincolnshire	11,029	1,808	16.4	14,000	881	6.3	10,576	1,778	16.8
813	North Lincolnshire	10,768	1,441	13.4	13,930	713	5.1	10,682	834	7.8
815	North Yorkshire	41,742	4,519	10.8	44,218	956	2.2	41,255	5,253	12.7
372	Rotherham	20,308	2,101	10.3	23,467	2,487	10.6	20,063	2,331	11.6
373	Sheffield	31,393	3,437	10.9	42,520	3,424	8.1	29,171	2,732	9.4
384	Wakefield	22,238	2,708	12.2	29,110	2,285	7.8	21,816	2,565	11.8
816	York	10,173	2,001	19.7	13,159	843	6.4	10,140	2,474	24.4
	East Midlands[5]	294,890	34,750	11.8	359,460	24,740	6.9	293,360	37,410	12.8
831	Derby	15,637	1,997	12.8	21,730	2,087	9.6	15,604	2,233	14.3
830	Derbyshire	50,751	5,610	11.1	61,495	2,870	4.7	50,783	6,651	13.1
856	Leicester	17,848	1,873	10.5	28,365	2,834	10.0	17,507	1,953	11.2
855	Leicestershire	46,517	5,766	12.4	47,679	4,536	9.5	46,390	5,684	12.3
925	Lincolnshire	48,246	4,557	9.4	52,403	1,450	2.8	48,399	6,201	12.8
928	Northamptonshire	45,184	6,539	14.5	56,247	3,647	6.5	45,122	6,017	13.3
892	Nottingham	13,578	1,209	8.9	24,239	2,648	10.9	13,365	1,478	11.1
891	Nottinghamshire	54,729	6,915	12.6	64,866	4,472	6.9	53,819	8,758	12.6
857	Rutland	2,402	288	12.0	2,437	194	8.0	2,366	430	18.2
	West Midlands[5]	373,960	43,800	11.7	466,100	30,600	6.6	366,840	47,450	12.9
330	Birmingham	70,063	9,641	13.8	101,095	7,211	7.1	69,597	9,982	14.3
331	Coventry	21,045	2,632	12.5	27,039	2,374	8.8	20,735	2,801	13.5
332	Dudley	20,712	2,968	14.3	27,962	2,449	8.8	20,425	2,045	10.0
884	Herefordshire	10,377	740	7.1	12,822	881	6.9	10,133	1,012	10.0
333	Sandwell	19,745	2,894	14.7	30,172	1,960	6.5	19,769	2,956	15.0
893	Shropshire	18,046	1,867	103	21,790	1,702	7.8	17,705	2,065	11.7

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2], position as at summer each year 2006 and 2007, by local authority area and government office region in England

		2006			2007					
		Maintained secondary schools[1]			Maintained primary schools			Maintained secondary schools[1]		
		No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]
334	Solihull	15,493	1,053	6.8	19,495	1,132	5.8	14,131	1,496	10.6
860	Staffordshire	60,645	4,697	7.7	62,845	1,522	2.4	59,671	5,629	9.4
861	Stoke-on-Trent	14,607	2,207	15.1	20,682	1,931	9.3	14,136	2,158	15.3
894	Telford and Wrekin	10,495	1,112	10.6	14,559	1,358	9.3	10,213	1,005	9.8
335	Walsall	20,948	1,931	9.2	25,934	1,933	7.5	20,589	2,370	11.5
937	Warwickshire	34,234	5,326	15.6	40,438	2,879	7.1	34,062	6,738	19.8
336	Wolverhampton	16,905	2,505	14.8	22,723	2,020	8.9	16,603	2,758	16.6
885	Worcestershire	40,648	4,224	10.4	38,541	1,252	3.2	39,087	4,437	11.4
	East of England[5]	388,160	37,070	9.5	439,330	31,740	7.2	387,390	45,980	11.9
620	Bedfordshire	37,517	5,036	13.4	25,337	1,493	5.9	37,607	5,334	14.2
673	Cambridgeshire	32,677	2,106	6.4	43,739	2,506	5.7	32,743	3,268	10.0
881	Essex	90,768	8,735	9.6	106,201	9,228	8.7	90,185	10,378	11.5
919	Hertfordshire	79,984	8,201	10.3	91,915	6,051	6.6	79,944	9,989	12.5
821	Luton	12,257	1,458	11.9	18,484	1,547	8.4	12,381	1,872	15.1
928	Norfolk	48,607	4,804	10.3	63,880	4,601	7.2	46,815	5,880	12.6
874	Peterborough	13,115	1,364	10.4	15,356	484	3.2	13,082	1,372	10.5
882	Southend-on-Sea	12,497	1,551	12.4	13,988	2,069	14.8	12,613	2,390	18.9
935	Suffolk	53,903	3,081	5.7	46,445	2,615	5.6	53,990	4,709	8.7
883	Thurrock	8,830	729	8.2	13,981	1,150	8.2	8,034	790	9.8
	London[5]	421,170	49,700	11.8	628,960	41,710	6.6	414,780	55,570	13.4
	Inner London[5]	127,090	14,850	11.7	228,290	16,460	7.2	122,650	15,760	12.9
202	Camden	9,884	1,096	11.1	11,432	693	8.1	9,895	1,084	11.0
201	City of London	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
204	Hackney	6,952	728	10.5	17,805	1,774	10.0	6,573	705	10.7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6,791	962	14.2	9,715	849	8.7	5,957	911	15.3
309	Haringey	11,645	1,463	12.6	21,739	1,359	6.3	11,762	1,749	14.9
206	Islington	8,060	1,047	13.0	14,020	1,153	8.2	7,921	1,184	14.9
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3,488	535	15.3	6,996	564	8.1	3,484	968	27.8
208	Lambeth	7,972	987	12.4	20,052	1,258	6.3	8,094	1,368	16.9
209	Lewisham	10,949	1,047	9.6	21,951	683	3.1	11,004	1,030	9.4
316	Newham	18,216	2,130	11.7	31,029	2,217	7.1	18,256	1,984	10.9
210	Southwark	10,153	782	7.7	22,538	1,486	6.6	8,327	735	8.8
211	Tower Hamlets	14,307	1,604	11.2	22,447	1,643	7.3	14,357	1,631	11.4
212	Wandsworth	10,317	1,423	13.8	17,461	1,774	10.2	10,382	1,370	13.2
213	Westminster	8,357	1,046	12.5	11,103	1,003	9.0	6,641	1,044	15.7
	Outer London[5]	294,080	34,850	11.9	460,670	25,250	6.3	292,130	39,810	13.6
301	Barking and Dagenham	12,537	1,385	11.0	18,755	309	1.6	12,428	1,129	9.1
302	Barnet	19,470	2,026	10.4	26,188	947	3.6	19,472	1,887	9.7
303	Bexley	18,290	3,080	18.8	50,510	1,954	9.5	18,276	3,277	17.9
304	Brent	16,321	1,821	11.2	23,200	1,391	6.0	16,479	1,779	10.8
305	Bromley	22,268	3,556	16.0	23,619	1,241	5.3	22,059	3,824	17.3
306	Croydon	18,597	1,346	7.2	29,243	1,080	3.7	18,591	2,024	10.9
307	Ealing	15,143	1,442	9.5	26,659	1,204	4.5	15,309	1,382	9.0
308	Enfield	22,006	3,101	14.1	27,379	1,706	6.2	22,082	4,417	20.0
203	Greenwich	14,391	1,659	11.5	21,490	1,161	5.4	14,142	1,945	13.8
310	Harrow	9,043	895	9.9	19,587	1,104	5.6	9,057	1,187	13.1
311	Havering	16,567	2,437	14.7	19,196	2,581	13.4	16,517	2,529	15.3
312	Hillingdon	16,957	1,886	11.1	24,403	1,468	6.0	16,969	2,165	12.8
313	Hounslow	16,525	1,902	11.5	18,985	1,871	9.9	16,559	2,091	12.6
314	Kingston upon Thames	9,536	882	9.2	11,624	914	7.9	9,562	1,283	13.4
315	Merton	8,558	741	8.7	15,491	693	4.5	7,146	785	11.0

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2], position as at summer each year 2006 and 2007, by local authority area and government office region in England

		2006			2007					
		Maintained secondary schools[3]			Maintained primary schools			Maintained secondary schools[3]		
		No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]	No of pupils[2]	No of gifted and talented pupils[2]	% of gifted and talented pupils[4]
317	Redbridge	20,586	2,562	12.4	24,494	2,055	8.4	20,937	2,757	13.2
318	Richmond upon Thames	7,133	418	5.9	13,001	1,113	8.6	7,119	911	12.8
319	Sutton	16,089	1,646	10.2	14,823	598	4.0	16,246	2,340	14.4
320	Waltham Forest	14,066	2,067	14.7	22,027	1,861	8.4	13,183	2,096	15.9
	South East[5]	512,660	56,290	11.0	626,280	54,760	8.7	511,170	73,230	14.3
867	Bracknell Forest	6,164	691	11.2	8,938	375	4.2	6,221	701	11.3
846	Brighton and Hove	12,125	1,131	9.3	17,123	1,616	9.4	12,167	1,295	10.6
825	Buckinghamshire	35,017	5,090	14.5	40,077	3,915	9.8	34,942	6,696	19.2
845	East Sussex	28,588	3,121	10.9	35,859	4,365	12.2	28,544	3,669	12.9
850	Hampshire	72,611	6,576	9.1	96,096	10,554	11.0	71,742	8,853	12.3
921	Isle of Wight	12,085	969	8.0	6,706	686	10.2	11,996	1,522	12.7
886	Kent	98,477	9,838	10.0	110,133	13,477	12.2	98,426	16,138	16.4
887	Medway	20,389	2,328	11.4	22,160	1,963	8.9	20,211	2,969	14.7
826	Milton Keynes	15,031	1,013	6.7	20,685	1,229	5.9	15,857	1,835	11.6
931	Oxfordshire	37,540	4,977	13.3	46,916	2,581	5.5	37,339	6,399	17.1
851	Portsmouth	9,911	1,147	11.6	13,899	1,958	14.1	9,756	1,018	10.4
870	Reading	6,023	1,455	24.2	10,791	551	5.1	5,476	1,120	20.5
871	Slough	8,914	712	8.0	11,821	696	5.9	9,256	945	10.2
852	Southampton	11,512	1,926	16.7	15,935	1,061	6.7	11,198	1,912	17.1
936	Surrey	59,466	5,171	8.7	78,265	2,574	3.3	59,642	6,640	11.1
889	West Berkshire	12,155	1,916	15.8	12,310	1,325	10.8	12,239	2,024	16.5
938	West Sussex	45,660	5,760	12.6	56,937	4,314	7.6	45,349	6,498	14.3
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	10,211	785	7.7	8,872	472	5.3	10,124	1,227	12.1
872	Wokingham	10,778	1,683	15.6	12,758	1,048	8.2	10,688	1,773	16.6
	South West[5]	324,400	43,000	13.3	374,950	28,020	7.5	322,350	4,700	15.1
800	Bath and North East Somerset	12,549	1,726	13.8	12,132	686	5.7	12,451	1,585	12.7
837	Bournemouth	9,880	962	9.7	10,361	893	8.6	9,722	1,969	20.3
801	Bristol, City of	15,459	1,448	9.4	28,988	2,623	9.0	15,136	1,700	11.2
908	Cornwall	32,688	2,973	9.1	38,934	2,753	7.1	32,527	3,430	10.5
878	Devon	43,173	5,583	12.9	53,310	5,212	9.8	42,729	5,803	13.6
835	Dorset	30,048	3,603	12.0	24,654	1,236	5.0	29,989	3,552	11.8
916	Gloucestershire	40,494	5,099	12.6	42,660	2,087	4.9	40,307	5,792	14.4
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0.0	274	11	4.0	0	0	0.0
802	North Somerset	12,928	2,336	18.1	14,973	1,312	8.8	12,951	2,669	20.6
879	Plymouth[6]	18,413	2,330	12.7	19,003	1,540	8.1	18,268	3,570	19.5
836	Poole	8,644	1,732	20.0	10,164	628	6.2	8,564	1,651	19.3
933	Somerset	33,060	5,091	15.4	36,214	2,640	7.3	32,450	6,106	18.8
803	South Gloucester	17,047	1,762	10.3	21,594	961	4.5	17,255	2,153	12.5
866	Swindon	11,613	1,733	14.9	16,949	2,130	12.6	11,541	1,653	14.3
880	Torbay	9,128	2,154	23.6	9,754	1,178	12.1	8,972	2,075	23.1
865	Wiltshire	29,277	4,465	15.3	34,990	2,131	6.1	29,483	4,995	16.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[3] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[4] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils.
[5] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[6] Secondary school data has been collected since 2006, Data on primary schools since 2007.

Source:
School Census

Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils entered for Chinese GCSE were of Chinese ethnicity; [182284]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils entered for a foreign language GCSE were pupils with English as an additional language. [182285]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for a modern language GCSE in 2007, broken down by local authority. [182290]

Jim Knight: A table showing the number and proportion of pupils entered for a modern language GCSE in 2007, broken down by local authority, has been placed in the Library. Information on GCSE and equivalent results can be found in the SFR "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)", available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

Literacy: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children met the Government's literacy and numeracy targets in each London borough in each of the last five years. [180608]

Jim Knight: Tables 1 and 2 provide the information requested on the percentage of pupils achieving national curriculum level 4 or above at key stage 2 in English and in mathematics; and level 5 or above in English and in mathematics at key stage 3. Level 4 is the level expected to be reached by pupils at the end of key stage 2 (i.e. about age 11), and level 5 is that expected by pupils at the end of key stage 3 (at age 14). There are no targets for the current comprehensive spending review that relate to literacy and mathematics at key stage 4 (i.e. when pupils take GCSEs and equivalent qualifications). However, the information on the percentage of pupils achieving five or more higher grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in each London borough is published and is included in table 3.

Information on the number of pupils achieving the target levels in each local authority is not available.

Table 1. Percentage of pupils attaining level 4 or better at the end of key stage 2 for each London authority, 2003 to 2007

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*[1]	
LA name	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*
Barking and Dagenham	71	69	73	71	75	70	74	73	77	76
Barnet	81	78	84	81	84	81	85	82	85	82
Bexley	77	69	79	71	80	74	81	75	84	79
Brent	77	72	78	74	78	73	79	73	80	75
Bromley	83	78	83	78	84	77	85	79	84	78
Camden	78	74	77	73	79	73	75	72	78	76
City of London	97	79	80	73	83	74	64	71	96	96
Croydon	78	71	79	74	78	72	81	75	81	75
Ealing	77	73	78	73	79	75	79	75	80	78
Enfield	78	72	77	73	77	73	79	72	78	75
Greenwich	70	67	70	68	73	68	74	71	73	72
Hackney	63	59	70	65	69	64	71	64	73	66
Hammersmith and Fulham	79	76	77	73	79	74	81	74	81	78
Haringey	67	66	70	67	73	68	75	70	76	74
Harrow	82	77	84	80	82	78	85	79	82	79
Havering	80	78	81	78	85	81	84	80	84	81
Hillingdon	80	75	79	77	80	77	81	77	82	77
Hounslow	76	73	77	73	79	75	80	77	79	77
Islington	69	68	71	68	74	68	74	68	77	74
Kensington and Chelsea	84	79	87	82	84	81	85	80	87	83
Kingston upon Thames	83	77	85	80	86	82	86	82	85	81
Lambeth	72	67	76	70	76	68	78	70	77	71
Lewisham	73	69	73	70	77	72	79	71	76	74
Merton	75	66	75	72	78	74	81	75	79	77
Newham	68	67	71	70	75	72	76	72	75	73
Redbridge	78	74	79	77	83	79	82	78	84	81
Richmond upon Thames	87	82	87	83	88	85	89	85	88	84
Southwark	70	62	69	64	72	67	74	69	76	72
Sutton	81	77	80	76	83	78	83	79	85	82
Tower Hamlets	74	71	77	75	78	76	80	78	81	78
Waltham Forest	70	68	73	69	73	69	77	72	76	75
Wandsworth	75	67	75	71	80	72	78	73	80	77
Westminster	80	77	82	77	81	76	84	76	83	77
National average	75	73	78	74	79	75	79	76	80	77

[1] Amended figures following publication of the Primary Achievement and Attainment Tables in December 2007.

Table 2: Percentage of pupils attaining level 5 or better at the end of key stage 3 for each London authority, 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007[1]	
LA name	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*
Barking and Dagenham	62	61	65	65	66	66	67	70	70	69
Barnet	73	76	78	78	82	80	81	82	79	80
Bexley	71	73	75	77	76	74	74	77	78	77
Brent	64	66	70	72	73	74	74	76	70	73
Bromley	73	76	80	77	80	79	80	82	83	80
Camden	68	65	73	70	76	72	75	76	77	73
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	66	68	70	72	75	71	73	74	73	75
Ealing	68	69	73	72	75	72	73	76	74	75
Enfield	67	68	70	71	72	72	71	74	74	73
Greenwich	61	61	63	60	67	63	68	68	67	66
Hackney	59	52	59	56	60	58	64	65	69	69
Hammersmith and Fulham	62	67	64	67	73	73	77	77	74	76
Haringey	52	55	59	58	65	62	61	64	65	65
Harrow	71	75	76	77	82	79	80	81	78	78
Havering	72	76	81	79	80	81	79	81	77	81
Hillingdon	65	73	71	74	74	73	70	76	75	75
Hounslow	71	68	70	71	76	71	76	77	74	76
Islington	49	57	55	59	64	61	61	64	63	64
Kensington and Chelsea	79	72	80	76	81	76	87	84	87	81
Kingston upon Thames	79	80	80	83	80	83	84	84	85	84
Lambeth	61	62	69	66	71	65	72	71	69	72
Lewisham	60	60	64	64	66	65	70	70	68	70
Merton	65	67	66	68	75	71	67	71	75	73
Newham	55	60	63	62	67	66	64	68	68	67
Redbridge	75	76	78	79	82	80	81	83	79	81
Richmond upon Thames	74	72	77	75	75	73	80	79	76	79
Southwark	51	52	63	58	66	59	66	65	66	65
Sutton	75	79	83	82	84	82	86	87	80	84
Tower Hamlets	54	55	57	58	67	61	65	68	62	65
Waltham Forest	60	62	68	66	74	67	70	71	68	68
Wandsworth	62	63	68	67	73	70	71	73	71	73
Westminster	69	65	68	68	76	69	69	74	66	74
National average	69	71	71	73	74	74	73	77	74	76

[1] 2007 provisional figures shown. 2007 amended figures not yet available.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSEs, including English and mathematics, at grades C and above for each London authority, 2003 to 2007

	Result				
LA name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Barking and Dagenham	31.8	31.5	33.6	37.6	39.2
Barnet	49.6	51.7	52.6	55.5	59.3
Bexley	42.2	44.2	45.5	50.2	49.7
Brent	40.1	41.9	467	48.8	49.5
Bromley	48.3	48.6	51.3	54.0	55.3
Camden	40.1	42.8	40.6	45.3	45.1
City of London	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	36.0	37.6	40.4	42.4	44.1
Ealing	39.6	39.4	45.9	48.2	49.0
Enfield	38.3	40.5	42.3	42.8	47.4
Greenwich	26.4	29.5	34.0	31.3	33.9
Hackney	26.5	32.1	34.2	36.4	41.3
Hammersmith and Fulham	42.6	42.1	46.6	48.9	57.8
Haringey	28.8	31.1	32.2	34.2	37.1
Harrow	47.4	49.7	49.8	53.3	56.0
Havering	49.8	51.0	49.7	54.5	53.6
Hillingdon	36.2	37.1	38.7	43.3	44.4
Hounslow	40.4	42.5	46.1	50.7	50.2
Islington	22.5	28.9	29.9	32.2	37.0
Kensington and Chelsea	45.1	45.6	52.5	53.9	56.4
Kingston upon Thames	58.4	54.8	59.6	58.6	61.3
Lambeth	30.1	37.2	37.3	41.4	41.1
Lewisham	30.1	32.4	37.1	40.7	40.4
Merton	36.0	36.1	38.3	39.4	39.7
Newham	34.2	37.6	40.3	41.1	44.1
Redbridge	54.9	55.6	56.0	59.0	61.2
Richmond upon Thames	48.2	47.9	46.5	49.5	47.7
Southwark	26.3	28.7	31.4	34.2	38.3
Sutton	56.3	58.7	59.4	62.7	64.7
Tower Hamlets	25.5	28.1	30.2	33.5	36.3
Waltham Forest	34.5	33.4	36.5	38.7	42.0

Table 3: Percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSEs, including English and mathematics, at grades C and above for each London authority, 2003 to 2007

	Result				
LA name	2003	[illegible]	2005	2006	2007
Wandsworth	37.1	38.4	41.4	41.6	46.6
Westminster	37.1	36.1	37.8	40.5	45.6
National average	41.9	42.7	44.3	45.3	46.0

Mandarin: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (*a*) primary and (*b*) secondary teachers have a degree level qualification in Mandarin Chinese. [182160]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers are teaching Mandarin Chinese. [182278]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available centrally.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many three and four-year-old children are entitled to free nursery places in each local authority area; how many such places are available in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [182062]

Beverley Hughes [*holding answer 25 January 2008*]: Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds has been placed in the House Library.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Pre-School Education: Tyne and Wear

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free nursery places have been provided in Houghton and Washington, East constituency in the last 10 years. [181554]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds is shown in the tables.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1][2][3] filled by three and four-year-olds—Houghton and Washington, East parliamentary constituency area—position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]	total 3-year-olds	maintained nursery and primary schools[6]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]	total 4-year-olds
2004	710	120	830	840	40	880
2005	740	130	870	860	40	900
2006	760	100	850	850	40	890
2007	750	130	880	830	40	870

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency prior to 2004 is not available.

[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1][2] filled by three and four-year-olds—Sunderland local authority area—position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	total 3-year-olds	maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	total 4-year-olds
1997	2,400	n/a	2,400	n/a	n/a	[5][6]3,700
1998	2,300	n/a	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5][6]3,600
1999	2,300	n/a	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5][6]3,400
2000	2,600	[7]340	2,900	n/a	n/a	[5][6]3,400
2001	2,400	[7]400	2,800	n/a	n/a	[5][6]3,300
2002	2,400	[7]860	3,300	3,100	[5]160	3,200
2003	2,400	[7]370	2,800	3,000	[8]150	3,200
2004	2,300	[9]400	2,700	3,000	[10]160	3,100

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] filled by three and four-year-olds—Sunderland local authority area—position in January each year

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	total 3-year-olds	maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	total 4-year-olds
2005	2,300	[9]370	2,700	2,800	[10]150	3,000
2006	2,300	[9]370	2,700	2,700	[10]140	2,800
2007	2,300	[9]390	2,700	2,800	[10]140	2,900

n/a = not available.

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] For the years 1997-2001, four-year-old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of chidren aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary pupils received a (i) permanent exclusion and (ii) temporary exclusion in the last 10 years, broken down by age. [181121]

Kevin Brennan: The readily available information relates to the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by age across primary, secondary[1] and special schools and is published annually by the Department. From the 2003/04 school year the figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England', the latest of which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Figures for 2002/03 were published in the Statistical First Release 'Permanent Exclusions from Maintained Schools' available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000535/index.shtml

Figures for 2001/02 and earlier were published in the Statistical Bulletin: 'Permanent Exclusions from Maintained Schools', which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000427/index.shtm

Equivalent publications are available for earlier years.

Information on fixed period exclusions is only available from 2003/04 onwards; and in 2005/06 the available information relates to secondary schools only.

Copies of tables showing the number of exclusions by age have been placed in the House Library.

[1] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the proportion of excluded pupils from families in each income decile; and if he will make a statement. [181800]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils were given *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed period exclusions in schools with (i) less than 10 per cent. free school meals pupils, (ii) more than 10 per cent. free school meals pupils and (iii) more than 30 per cent. free school meals pupils; [182750]

(2) how many *(a)* school action and *(b)* school action plus special educational needs pupils were given a fixed period exclusion in the last 12 months; [182751]

(3) how many and what proportion of school action plus pupils were persistent truants in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [182752]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Pupil Exclusions: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were excluded from schools in Easington constituency in each year since 2004. [182659]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is provided in the tables.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of permanent exclusions 2003/04 to 2005/06—Easington parliamentary constituency

	Permanent exclusions[2]	
	Number	Percentage
2003/04	16	0.13
2004/05	17	0.14
2005/06	13	0.11

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed

[2] Figures are as reported by schools.

Source:

School Census

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions 2003/04 to 2005/06—Easington parliamentary constituency

	Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2003/04	51	0.67	684	[2]14.15
2004/05	76	1.03	596	[2]12.43
2005/06	n/a	n/a	458	[3]9.52

n/a = Not available

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed

[2] Data on fixed period exclusions have been sourced from the Termly Exclusions Survey

[3] Data on fixed period exclusions have been sourced from the School Census. In 2005/06 fixed period exclusions are available for secondary schools only

Source:

Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Pupils: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department provides on procedures for dealing with *(a)* guns, *(b)* knives and (c) other weapons after they have been confiscated by teachers from students; [182745]

(2) what guidance his Department has given to *(a)* schools and *(b)* teachers on their powers to confiscate weapons from students; [182780]

(3) how many *(a)* guns, *(b)* knives and *(c)* other weapons have been confiscated by teachers from (i) primary school students and (ii) secondary school students in each of the last 12 months; [182781]

(4) how many teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have confiscated (i) guns, (ii) knives and (iii) other weapons from pupils in each of the last 12 months. [182783]

Jim Knight: We have issued guidance to school staff on how to comply with the law when they screen pupils at random or search, without consent, a pupil whom they suspect has a weapon. Our guidance includes advice on the power to seize anything that could be used as an offensive weapon and states that any suspected illegal weapon, once seized after a search or screening, must be delivered to the police as soon as is reasonably practical. The guidance, 'Screening and Searching of Pupils for Weapons: Guidance for School Staff'(May 2007) is at

> http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/schoolsecurity/.

We do not collect data on the confiscation of weapons by school staff.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methodology his Department and the Schools Food Trust use to access the take-up of school meals in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [181790]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2006, the School Food Trust (SFT) has undertaken an annual survey of all local authorities, which has asked them to provide information about school lunch take-up, both primary and secondary, in their area.

School lunch take-up is now included in the local government National Indicator Set and is an indicator for PSA 12 of the 2007 Comprehensive spending review ('improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people'). Following these developments, the Department is working with the Trust to develop a standard methodology for collecting school lunch take-up information for future SFT surveys. We will shortly be consulting key stakeholders before making a final decision on that future methodology.

Schools: Catering

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools do not have school kitchens. [182244]

Jim Knight: The Government do not collect this information. However, in its second annual survey of take-up of school meals in England (published in September 2007) the School Food Trust reported that 22.3 per cent. of primary schools and 0.8 per cent. of secondary schools did not have facilities for food preparation.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been fitted with fire sprinkler systems in accordance with the guidance in Building Bulletin 100: Design for Fire Safety in Schools; and how many planned new schools are to be fitted with such sprinklers. [181546]

Jim Knight: We do not keep information on the details of new school designs. However it is our policy is that all new primary and secondary schools will have fire sprinklers installed. Therefore all schools designed after the introduction of our new policy in February 2007 should have sprinkler systems, apart from a few cases where the new schools are at a very low risk of fire and where sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

Schools: Hearing Impaired

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools for deaf and hearing-impaired pupils there were in each year since 1997; and how many places were provided in each category in each such year. [183287]

Kevin Brennan: The numbers of maintained and independent schools that have statutory provision for deaf and hearing impaired pupils are given in the following tables. The number of places provided in these schools is not collected centrally.

Table A: Maintained schools

	First priority	Second priority	Third priority	Total
1997	10	5	0	15
1998	10	5	0	15
1999	10	5	0	15
2000	10	5	0	15
2001	8	4	0	12
2002	7	4	0	11
2003	7	4	0	11
2004	7	7	0	14
2005	7	6	1	14
2006	7	4	1	12
2007	8	4	1	13

Table B: Independent schools

	First priority	Second priority	Third priority	Total
1997	13	1	0	14
1998	13	1	0	14
1999	13	1	0	14
2000	13	1	0	14
2001	15	1	0	16
2002	15	1	0	16
2003	14	1	0	15
2004	14	1	0	15
2005	14	1	0	15
2006	14	5	0	19
2007	14	4	0	18

Schools: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what per pupil funding was in Sefton in each year since 1993 in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms; and if he will make a statement. [181151]

Jim Knight: The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 1997-98 to 2005-06, for Sefton local authority are shown in the following table. Comparable figures are not available for 1993-94 to 1996-97.

	Cash	£ Real
1997-98	2,367	2,943
1998-99	2,498	3,029
1999-2000	2,655	3,156
2000-01	2,936	3,440
2001-02	3,167	3,624
2002-03	3,384	3,755
2003-04	3,644	3,930
2004-05	3,868	4,060
2005-06	4,139	4,254

Notes:
1. Price Base: The real terms figures are at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert m figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £.
6. Figures are provided in both cash and real terms.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table is taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 for Sefton local authority

	Cash	£ Real
2006-07	4,195	4,195
2007-08	4,458	4,341

Notes:
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's planned spend.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.
3. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding has been allocated to Sefton council for new school facilities in addition to standard capital allocations in each year since 1993; and how much of such funding has been allocated to Formby. [181150]

Jim Knight: The Department has maintained a central record of capital allocations to local authorities since 1996-97. Capital funding allocated to Sefton during the period 1996 to 2008, excluding that allocated as capital formula funding to the local authority and direct to schools, is set out in the following table:

	£ million
1996-97	0
1997-98	1.0
1998-99	1.7
1999-2000	4.1
2000-01	5.6
2001-02	3.8
2002-03	6.9
2003-04	4.5
2004-05	0.5
2005-06	3.6
2006-07	7.3
2007-08	23.1
Total	62.1

The £23.1 million allocation in 2007-08 is for a one school pathfinder project.

The Department does not keep records of the amount allocated to Formby, as this is determined by the local authority in accordance with priorities set out in its asset management plan.

During the period 1996-97 to 2007-08 a total of £149.5 million has been allocated to Sefton, including formula funding. A further £55.5 million is planned to be allocated in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Local authorities and schools are able to use their formula funding either to improve existing facilities, or to construct additional facilities.

Schools: Work Experience

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on work experience at schools. [181036]

Jim Knight: The Education Act 2002 introduced from September 2004 an entitlement for all pupils to a programme of work related learning at Key-Stage 4 (14 to 16-year-olds). Work related learning may be provided in a number of ways, including through work experience. It is Government policy that young people should participate in work experience at Key Stage 4. 95 per cent. of young people do so and there is good evidence that the vast majority of them and the employers that provide the places enjoy and value their experience. A minimum of 10 days work-experience will be a requirement of Diplomas.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* mainstream maintained, *(b)* specialist science and *(c)* independent schools entered students into separate GCSEs for physics, biology and chemistry in 2007. [182172]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost, however, the number of pupils entered into separate GCSEs for physics, biology and chemistry by type of school have been given as follows.

Number and percentage of 15-years-olds taking biology, chemistry and physics by school type in 2006/07

	Mainstream maintained schools		*Independent schools*		*Specialist science schools*		*All schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Biology	38,759	6.50	15,797	32.50	9,673	13.00	54,711	8.30
Chemistry	36,866	6.20	14,648	30.10	9,575	12.90	51,522	7.80
Physics	36,728	6.20	14,474	29.80	9,544	12.90	51,210	7.80
All three separate sciences	36,076	6.10	12,535	25.80	9,524	12.80	48,613	7.40
Total number of 15-year-olds	594,849		48,648		74,205		657,582	

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools took all three separate science GCSEs in 2007; [182279]

(2) how many pupils sat all three separate science GCSEs in 2007. [182291]

Jim Knight: The information is in the following table.

Number and percentage of 15-years-olds taking biology, chemistry and physics by school type in 2006-07

	Maintained Schools		*Independent Schools*		*All Schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Biology	38,768	6.40	15,797	32.50	54,711	8.30
Chemistry	36,869	6.10	14,648	30.10	51,522	7.80
Physics	36,730	6.10	14,474	29.80	51,210	7.80
All three separate sciences	36,078	6.00	12,535	25.80	48,613	7.40
Total number of 15-year-olds	604,898			48,648	657,582	

Special Educational Needs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils with statements of special educational need are recorded as attending *(a)* maintained special schools, *(b)* maintained mainstream schools and *(c)* other educational settings broken down by category of special educational need; [178585]

(2) how many pupils in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools have a diagnosis of autism; [178672]

(3) how many pupils with autism attend *(a)* maintained special schools, *(b)* maintained mainstream schools and *(c)* other educational settings, broken down by category of special need; [178673]

(4) how many statements of special educational need were issued in respect of children *(a)* with autism and *(b)* recorded as deaf and having impaired hearing in each year for which figures are available; [178675]

(5) how many and what proportion of deaf and hearing-impaired pupils are recorded as having *(a)* special educational needs with a statement, *(b)* special educational needs without a statement and *(c)* no special educational needs. [183286]

Kevin Brennan: Type of special education need is only collected for pupils with statements of SEN and at School Action Plus within maintained mainstream and special schools and non-maintained special schools. This information is not collected for pupils in independent schools or pupils at School Action.

The available information has been placed in the Library and can be found in table 9 of SFR Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007, which is available on the Department's website here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority were (i) statemented and (ii) on School Action Plus in each year since 1997. [181801]

Kevin Brennan: The available information on statemented pupils and those on School Action Plus is shown in the tables that have been placed in the Library. School Action Plus data are only available from 2002.

The information is collected for the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007' which is published annually and can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on children with *(a)* special educational needs, *(b)* dyslexia and *(c)* dyspraxia in (i) Ribble Valley constituency and (ii) Lancashire county council area in each of the last 10 years. [181726]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The information requested is submitted to the Department according to local authority areas, rather than districts within an area. Ribble Valley is a district of Lancashire local authority. The information for Lancashire LA about the amount spent on children with special educational needs is as follows:

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by Lancashire local authority: 2000-01 to 2007-08

	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs[1,2] by Lancashire LA (£)[3]
2000-01	79,766,000
2001-02	82,826,000
2002-03	86,666,000
2003-04	99,347,000
2004-05	106,320,000
2005-06	109,113,000
2006-07	118,120,000
2007-08[4]	128,721,000

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 Lancashire LA also budgeted £13.2 million, £8.8 million and £14.5 million respectively for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.

[4] 2007-08 data is subject to change by the local authority.

Notes:

1. Cash terms figures as reported by Lancashire local authority as at 22 January 2008.
2. The data are drawn from Lancashire local authority's Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF (formally the DfES).

(b) and *(c)* The Department does not collect separate figures on how much was spent on dyslexia or dyspraxia.

Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether secondary schools in rural areas will be required to provide access to all 17 diploma lines; and if he will make a statement. [181792]

Jim Knight: Diplomas will be taught by consortia of schools, colleges, and work-based learning providers, working in partnership with the local authority and employers. As such, not every secondary school will be providing each diploma itself, but young people from those schools will be able to access diplomas in other consortium institutions, including in rural areas.

Sure Start Programme: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what services are provided by the Sure Start programme to prevent or respond to violence against women. [182735]

Beverley Hughes: Information on services provided by Sure Start Children's Centres to prevent or respond to violence against women is not available centrally. All Sure Start Children's Centres offer as a minimum outreach services to families at risk of social exclusion; health and family support services, help with employment and training, advice and information for parents, and centre based activities for children and families. Family support services will be tailored to respond to needs in the local area and we encourage children's centres to ensure that parents or other family members experiencing domestic violence have access to appropriate support. Other family support services, such as structured parenting programmes, may contribute to prevention of domestic abuse. A focussed study 'Sure Start Local Programmes and Domestic Abuse' carried out as part of the National Evaluation of Sure Start, published in July 2007, found that Sure Start Local Programmes had developed a good awareness of issues of domestic violence and use their responsibility to address the needs of children at risk to develop innovative and effective methods of informing and supporting their communities around the dangers of domestic abuse. A summary and the full report is available on the Sure Start website at:

http://www.surestart.gov.uk/publications/?Document= 1927

Sure Start Programme: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what was the average staff complement of a Sure Start centre in each of the last five years; what proportion of Sure Start centre staff had qualifications accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority at *(a)* level 6, *(b)* level 3 and *(c)* level 1 or 2 only over the period; and if he will make a statement. [182268]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Information on the workforce in Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) and Sure Start children's centres over the last five years is not available. However the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Provider Survey estimated that there were approximately 10,500 staff working in full day care provision in children's centres, of which 9,370 were paid staff and 1,150 were unpaid staff. The average number of paid staff per setting was 14. 9 per cent. of paid staff working in full day care provision in children's centres held a level 6 qualification as their highest level qualification, 62 per cent. held a level 3 qualification and 12 per cent. held a level 1 or level 2 qualification.

Sure Start children's centres, and before them SSLPs, were set up to offer a range of integrated services for young children and families, delivered by statutory, private and voluntary and independent sector agencies working together. SSLPs had flexibility to decide, following consultation with local families, which activities to provide around a core of health, family support, play and learning, and outreach and home visiting services to meet local priorities and needs. Staffing levels therefore varied considerably. Sure Start children's centres offer a minimum level of service including outreach services to families at risk of social exclusion; health and family support services, help with employment and training, advice and information for parents, and some centre based activities for children and families. Centres serving the most disadvantaged communities provide more intensive support and must additionally provide integrated early learning and full day care for children under five. Any centre offering integrated early education and full day care must employ a graduate with qualified teacher status. Over the longer term we expect all centre managers will follow the National Professional Qualification for Integrated Centre Leadership, all staff working through children's centres will be qualified to level 2, level 3 if they are working directly with children and that volunteers will be trained or mentored by qualified staff.

Teachers: Criminal Investigation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any criminal allegations have been made against teachers acting in their capacity as such in the London borough of Havering in the last 12 months. [181562]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Sign Language

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what standard of British Sign Language attainment is required of teachers of the deaf; [181230]

(2) what comparative assessment he has made of the educational progress of deaf children taught using British Sign Language and those taught using total communication. [181231]

Kevin Brennan: Where qualified teachers wish to specialise in teaching children with a sensory impairment, including a hearing impairment, they must obtain an additional mandatory qualification (MQ). The current specification for MQ courses includes the expectation that participants successfully completing the MQ for teachers of pupils with hearing impairment should have a minimum competence in signing, equivalent to the CACDP (Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People) Stage 1 qualification. The Training and Development Agency for Schools is currently reviewing the MQ specification, which has included detailed consultation with the approved MQ providers and a range of other interested parties. The Department has made no comparative assessment of the educational progress of deaf children taught using British Sign Language and those taught using total communication.

Teaching: Hearing Impaired

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research his Department has commissioned on effective teaching for deaf and hearing impaired pupils in the last 10 years; [178674]

(2) what guidance his Department gives to local authorities on the placement of deaf and hearing-impaired children. [183288]

Kevin Brennan: In July 1998, the then Department for Education and Employment commissioned a review of the literature on the educational achievements of deaf children and young people. While the report suggested that deaf and hearing impaired learners do lag behind their hearing peers in their achievements in mathematics and reading it also found that the presence of additional child difficulties, language used in the home and socio-economic status, appear to be more stable predictors of exam success than the degree of hearing loss. The report also found that in many studies, degree of hearing loss itself does not correlate with educational achievement. In those studies where there is a relationship between the two, the correlation may well be attributable to other, latent factors. However, the Government are committed to narrowing the attainment gap between deaf children and their peers. We are currently working with the National Deaf Children's Society and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People to improve the availability of data in order to establish an accurate picture of this attainment gap and take steps to reduce it.

Regarding guidance the Department gives to local authorities on the placement of deaf and hearing-impaired children, the SEN code of practice provides practical advice to all local authorities, maintained schools, early education settings and others on carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children's special educational needs. All these parties are required to have regard to the code.

Teenage Pregnancy Unit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether the Teenage Pregnancy Unit has responsibility to develop measures to combat, or respond to, incidents of violence against women; [182736]

(2) what research the Teenage Pregnancy Unit has conducted into the proportion of pregnant teenagers who are victims of *(a)* rape and *(b)* domestic violence. [182737]

Beverley Hughes: The Teenage Pregnancy Unit in the Department does not have responsibility to develop measures to combat, or respond to, incidents of violence against women generally. This is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary.

No research has been commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families specifically into the proportion of pregnant teenagers who are the victims of rape and domestic violence. However, we know from research that the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in the Department has done those teenagers experiencing coercive and exploitative relationships are at much greater risk of early pregnancy. That is why in 'Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies' published by DFES in 2006 we emphasised that LAs should have mechanisms in place to identify the young woman most at risk of such relationships and early pregnancy.

Truancy: Fines

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have been fined for failing to ensure their children attend school in each of the last 12 months; what the total amount of fines for each of these months was; and what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum fine was. [182765]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not available in the form requested.

The Department collects data on the number of penalty notices issued by local authorities to parents in respect of the offence of failing to ensure regular school attendance. The latest available data (for the school year 2006-07) show that 14,625 parents were issued with penalty notices. The penalty is £50 if paid within 28 days rising to £100 if paid after 28 days but within 42 days.

The Ministry of Justice also collects data on the number of parents prosecuted under sections 444(1) and 444(1A) (the aggravated offence of parents knowing that their children are not attending school regularly) of the Education Act 1996. In 2006, there were 2,952 parents who received fines from the courts after being found guilty of the offence. We do not collect information on the amount of the fines imposed by the courts.

Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken pursuant to the conclusions of the March 2007 European Council on the further development of policies to promote the role of young people during their transition from school to working life. [181037]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The conclusions of the March 2007 European Council are consistent with the considerable work we are doing domestically to help young people with their transition from school to working life and prepare them to succeed in work and to make a productive contribution to society.

Some of the key measures we are taking forward domestically are: a new set of employer-designed diplomas, providing a platform to acquire all the skills needed for successful employment, the Personal, Social and Health Education framework giving teachers a coherent structure within which to develop children's social and moral development and integrated information, advice and guidance and access to personal development opportunities for all 13 to 19-year-olds to help remove barriers to learning and progression and ensure that young people make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Prime Minister which individuals he has invited to Chequers to meet him in his capacity as Prime Minister since 27 June 2007. [182817]

The Prime Minister: Information for 2007-08 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the financial year.

China

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he held with the Chinese Government on Burma on his recent trip to China; [183039]

(2) what discussions he held with the Chinese Government on Sudan on his recent trip to China. [183040]

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with the Government of China during his recent visit to that country on the political situation in Burma. [178706]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) and for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2280W.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on departmental e-mail, how many email accounts he has for official purposes. [179636]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on departmental e-mail, whether he uses an e-mail account to send e-mail to civil servants and ministerial colleagues in the course of his duties. [181336]

The Prime Minister: I am in regular contact with ministerial colleagues and civil servants either directly or through my office.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Office have given rise to responses that have been published by his Office. [180224]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) today.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers the Prime Minister's Office employed in each of the last 10 years. [182510]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W.

For previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my predecessor the right hon. Tony Blair on 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 895-96W, and 22 March 2004, *Official Report*, columns 559-60W.

Interception of Communications Commissioner

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the timetable is for the publication of the annual report of the Interception of Communications Commissioner for 2006; and if he will make it his policy to publish such reports within 28 days of receipt; [181280]

(2) what the timetable is for the production of the annual report of the Intelligence Services Commissioner for 2006; and if he will make it his policy to publish such reports within 28 days of receipt. [181301]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the written statement I made on 28 January, *Official Report*, column 3-4WS.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to answer the letter to him dated 10 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on police pay. [181770]

The Prime Minister: I replied to my right hon. Friend today.

Ministerial Powers

Mr. Bone: To ask the Prime Minister what the contingency arrangements are for *(a)* leadership of the Government and *(b)* control of the UK nuclear deterrent in circumstances of the unforeseen incapacity or death of the Prime Minister; and if he will make a statement. [183096]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax: Housing

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect of his capital gains tax proposals on the second homes housing market. [183068]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2339-40W.

Care Homes: Stamp Duties

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will review the levels of stamp duty charged on care home leases; and if he will make a statement; [181926]

(2) whether there is an upper limit to the level of stamp duty which may be levied on individual care home leases; and if he will make a statement; [181927]

(3) what assessment he has made of the relationship between the cost of residential care home provision and the level of stamp duty levied on care home leases; and if he will make a statement. [181928]

Jane Kennedy: Stamp duty land tax on the grant of a new lease is charged separately on any premium and on the rent payable under the lease. The charge on the rent is 1 per cent. of the amount by which the discounted net present value of the rent payable exceeds the stamp duty land tax threshold. Stamp duty land tax on the premium is based on the amount of premium paid. Details of stamp duty land tax rates and thresholds can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/so

No assessment has been made of the relationship between the cost of residential care home provision and the levels of stamp duty land tax levied on care home leases. But stamp duty land tax, like all other taxes, is kept under constant review as part of the Budget process.

Crown Lands and Estates: Wind Power

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what income the Crown Estate derived from wind powered electricity generating installations situated offshore in each financial year since 2001-02. [178653]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

Year end	*Revenue (£)*
2001-02	2,500
2002-03	2,500
2003-04	4,260
2004-05	181,000
2005-06	386,000
2006-07	721,000

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years; [182505]

(2) how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182711]

Angela Eagle: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Budget

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are used to gain parliamentary approval to transfer funds from the UK to the EU each year. [182665]

Angela Eagle: United Kingdom contributions to the EC budget are made by virtue of the European Communities (Finance) Act 2001.

Landfill Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the landfill tax escalator is revenue-neutral in relation to local authorities. [183274]

Angela Eagle: I can confirm that the costs of landfill tax, including the increase in the landfill tax escalator, were taken into account when agreeing the local government settlement.

Local Government: Pay

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional funding has been allocated to *(a)* local authorities in England and *(b)* Scotland under the Barnett formula for the costs of dealing with Single Status matters. [181945]

Yvette Cooper: No additional funding has been made available in England in the form of grants from central Government specifically for Single Status implementation. All financial pressures on local authorities are taken into account when deciding the financial settlement for local government in spending reviews. Local authorities in England have been given permission to capitalise expenditure on the implementation of Single Status agreements. In 2006-07 the amount capitalised for this purpose was £121.1 million. In 2007-08 capitalisation directions totalling £500 million have been issued to local authorities, but actual use of these directions will be published in summer 2008.

No additional Departmental Expenditure Limit funding has been made available to the Scottish Executive under the Barnett formula, because no additional funding for Single Status implementation was made available to English local authorities. The funding of local authorities in Scotland is a devolved matter within the framework of the UK public expenditure system.

Personation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1054W, on personation, if he will make an assessment of the potential risk of identity theft arising from tax-related correspondence between HM Revenue and Customs and members of the public. [183024]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC utilises a variety of means to both send and receive information to and from its customers. Each of these processes has specific procedures to ensure that customer information is protected securely. Risks are assessed on a regular basis.

Kieran Poynter is conducting an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures and his interim report was published on 17 December and is available in the Library of the House. He is expected to consider the need for any further procedural changes in his final report which is due in the first half of 2008.

Tax Credit: Members

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent guidance has been issued to staff in the Tax Credit Office on deadlines for responding to letters from hon. Members. [182097]

Jane Kennedy: No updated guidance has been issued recently.

It has always been the aim of the Tax Credit Office to reply to the majority of letters from hon. Members within three weeks. Following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have been subject to delays, but HMRC are continuing to make progress to recover that position.

Tax Rates and Bands: Low Incomes

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the removal of the 10 per cent. tax band on low income working people who do not qualify for working tax credits; [182281]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the removal of the 10 per cent. tax band on pensioners who do not qualify for pension credits; [182282]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of the removal of the 10 per cent. tax band on people earning less than £18,750 per annum. [182283]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Daventry (Mr. Boswell) on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1268-70W.

Taxation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what comparative assessment he has made of the treatment received under the taxation regime by married couples with children and single people without children. [182423]

Jane Kennedy: The principle of independent taxation means each individual has his or her own allowances and income tax rate bands. Levels of financial support in the tax credit system are determined by the level of need, and do not favour any particular household composition.

Taxation: Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of HM Treasury's 2002 document, Plastic Bag Tax Assessment. [183220]

Angela Eagle: A copy of the assessment has been available in the Library since 2004.

JUSTICE

Restorative Justice Programmes

15. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of restorative justice programmes on public confidence in the criminal justice system. [182480]

24. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of restorative justice programmes in increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system. [182489]

Mr. Hanson: No specific assessment has been made. But research on the Crime Reduction Programme Restorative Justice pilots found, among other things, that victims and offenders who had taken part in the restorative justice conferences were more satisfied than control group participants with how the criminal justice system generally handled their case.

16. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the use of reparative measures within the criminal justice system. [182481]

Maria Eagle: Restorative justice, including reparative measures, is an important way of ensuring victims of crime and society in general has increased confidence in our criminal justice system. Many disposals provide for the delivery of this; for example, through financial compensation and unpaid work in the community. Conditional cautions are a relatively new way of doing this—5,300 have been issued since April 2005. About four in five include some form of reparation from compensation and apologies to repairing criminal damage. The compliance rate is about 6 per cent. It is up to the courts and prosecutors, as appropriate, to determine the most suitable disposal in each particular case.

Clearsprings Support Service

17. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that there is no risk to public safety from offenders and defendants accommodated in ClearSprings' bail and accommodation support service. [182482]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have public protection as their highest priority. Sex offenders and others who pose a significant risk are excluded from the ClearSprings service. The courts decide whether a defendant can be bailed into the service. The only sentenced prisoners released into the service are on home detention curfew.

Wills

18. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the law relating to the publication of wills; and if he will make a statement. [182483]

Bridget Prentice: Section 124 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 states that where a grant of probate has been issued in respect of a will, both the grant and the will are open to public inspection unless the court directs otherwise. These documents may be inspected at the Principal Registry of the Family Division in London or at one of the District Probate Registries where the grant was issued. I have no plans to review the law in this area.

Data Protection

19. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward proposals to strengthen the protection of personal data held by public authorities; and if he will make a statement. [182484]

Mr. Wills: My Department will launch a consultation early in 2008 on proposals to strengthen the Data Protection Act 1998. This includes measures to enable the Information Commissioner to inspect public sector organisations without prior consent; new penalties for the most serious breaches of the Data Protection Act and proposals for funding the Commissioner's Office to carry out the work.

Crime: Bail

20. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements his Department has put in place to prevent crime being committed by suspects granted bail. [182485]

Mr. Hanson: The Bail Act 1976 gives power to the courts to impose bail conditions to prevent offending on bail. These include exclusion from specified areas, not to approach witnesses or curfew at the home address.

In addition we have provided a number of options for the courts to choose from when imposing conditions. These include tagging to enforce a curfew, bail accommodation, with support, and in certain areas a requirement to undergo a drugs assessment.

House of Lords Reform

21. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to bring forward proposals for a substantially elected House of Lords. [182486]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to bring forward proposals for a substantially elected House of Lords. [182476]

Mr. Straw: I am leading cross-party talks, taking forward the outcome of last year's free votes in this House for a wholly- or mainly-elected second Chamber. In due course, the Government intend to publish a White Paper reflecting these talks.

Chelmsford Prison

22. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the conclusions of HM Inspector of Prisons' report on Chelmsford prison on suicides; and if he will make a statement. [182487]

Maria Eagle: I would like to thank the Chief Inspector of Prisons for her report about Chelmsford prison.

The Prison Service will produce an action plan in around two months which will respond in detail to each of the Chief Inspector's recommendations, setting out the action required and the timescale.

As the Chief Inspector herself has pointed out, the proportion of her recommendations which are accepted is over 95 per cent.

Community Sentences

23. **Mr. Singh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve public perception of the effectiveness of community sentences. [182488]

Mr. Hanson: Confidence in community sentences is increasing. A three year PR campaign has raised the profile of community sentences, using innovative ideas such as local radio disc jockeys undertaking community order requirements on air. A new campaign is being launched using TV, internet and print to focus particularly on how effective community sentences can be. In the last 10 years the number of community sentences has increased by 44 per cent.

Community Justice Courts

25. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are plans to increase the numbers of community justice courts across the country. [182490]

Maria Eagle: The Government want to work towards making community justice the way in which local justice is provided in all our courts. Therefore, we have set up 13 community justice courts across England and Wales, one of which is in Birmingham, with a view to test the concept fully. The problem solving approach to tackling the causes of offending has shown promise in boosting community confidence in the Criminal Justice System and reducing re-offending.

We are taking the lessons learned from these projects and will be working during 2008 to help the magistrates courts improve engagement and involvement with the communities they serve.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to contribute to reductions in UK carbon dioxide emissions. [182478]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in line with the "Sustainable Operations in Government Estate" targets. In addition, we have produced our own Sustainable Development Action Plan which clearly defines how the Department will deliver reduced carbon emissions and lead by example.

Approved Premises: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residential units maintained by ClearSprings under the Bail Accommodation and

Support Service there are in Peterborough constituency for *(a)* individuals on bail, *(b)* ex offenders and *(c)* those subject to home detention curfew; and if he will make a statement. [182808]

Mr. Hanson: There are four properties in Peterborough leased by ClearSprings for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. On 23 January there were two defendants on bail and four offenders released on home detention curfew in these properties. The scheme is available only to those on bail or home detention curfew.

Corston Report

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been allocated to the implementation of the Corston Report's recommendations that have been accepted; and if he will make a statement. [182639]

Maria Eagle: The Government's response to the Corston report published on 6 December 2007 highlights where additional funding has already been identified for new initiatives to take forward the recommendations and sets out a number of ways in which provision and services will be improved and made more appropriate for women. We have accepted 40 out of the 43 recommendations and implementation of many of the commitments will be possible within the resources already identified for providing more effective interventions and services for offenders.

Court of Protection

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by the Court of Protection to deal with an application in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [181971]

Bridget Prentice: Since the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) on 1 October 2007 we have received 4,871 applications to the Court of Protection. In the same period the court has issued 3,163 orders although many of these will have been for applications on legacy cases and received prior to 1 October 2007.

Where an application to the court requires an oral hearing the Court of Protection aims to list it to be heard within 15 weeks and all cases received since 1 October are within this target. Where there is no hearing required the Court of Protection aims for customers to have received a direction within 21 weeks and new cases are broadly in line with this target.

These are the maximum time limits and allow for the serving of papers by the parties involved and the submission of their evidence. Cases can be dealt with more speedily than this if these processes do not take the full time allowed for them under the court's rules. However, targets assume that parties will take the full time available to them to serve papers and provide further evidence. There is also a process to allow for interim directions to be made during this period if a judge feels it is appropriate.

There are delays due to high volumes with some legacy cases although every effort is being made to identify urgent cases and deal with them as a priority. We have provided additional resources to the court team in December and again in January and expect the backlog of legacy applications to have been cleared by the end of February.

It is impossible at this stage to give an average time for completing an application as the new structure has not been in place for 21 weeks—our main target for issuing directions. We will of course be able to provide fuller information later in the year when we have the data to work with.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179946]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has a limited number of revenue raising contracts, negotiated within its 'Wider Markets' initiative, to make appropriate use of public assets. These contracts have been negotiated with suitable commercial provisions, which may include indexation in some cases. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it is not possible to disclose the terms of the contracts.

The Ministry of Justice has a wide range of expenditure contracts for goods and services.

Where commercially appropriate, indexation is negotiated when the contract is awarded. This generally applies where contracts are over a longer time scale, provide a consistent or repeated service or commodity, or a service with a significant manpower element.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179454]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice was established in May 2007 and has so far recycled approximately 30,000 kgs of white paper, 95,000 kgs of mixed paper and 11,000 kgs of cardboard. This is the approximate equivalent of 6,260 trees.

Departmental Reorganisation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the review of Ministry of Justice structures. [182111]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement which I have made today.

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on sentencing policy on the offence of causing death by careless driving. [182658]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has not received any representations specifically on sentencing policy on the offence of causing death by careless driving. We have, however, received letters from MPs, road safety campaigners and members of the public on the draft sentencing guideline published on 9 January by the Sentencing Guideline Council (SGC). The guideline covers two existing offences of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs, plus two new offences (yet to be implemented) of causing death by careless driving and causing death by driving when unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured.

The guidelines are currently subject to consultation with the Government, the Justice Select Committee and other interested parties. We are considering the guidelines carefully and will respond in due course. The consultation period ends in March and should lead to publication of a definitive guideline later in the year.

Electoral System

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the issues raised in the recently published review of electoral systems will form a part of the Governance of Britain consultation process. [182617]

Mr. Wills: The purpose of the review was to consider the experience of new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997, to contribute to the existing knowledge of voting systems in the United Kingdom. As set out in the written ministerial statement on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 61WS, the Government consider that at this point, it would be premature to discuss reforms to the electoral system for the Commons while the voting system for a reformed and substantially or fully elected House of Lords is still to be determined. Good progress is being made on the cross-party talks on Lords reform and the Government intend to publish a White Paper in the first part of 2008 reflecting the outcome of these discussions.

Fines: Surcharges

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money accrued via the victim surcharge introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 has been *(a)* used directly or indirectly for the purposes of victim support and *(b)* has remained with the Treasury; and if he will make a statement. [182347]

Maria Eagle: At the end of November 2007, some £1.5 million had been raised from the collection of the victims surcharge since its introduction on 1 April 2007. All the money is being used to support victims of crime and witnesses. None is being passed to the Treasury. Details of how the money is being used were given in my answers of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1190W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne), and 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 96W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1422W, on incapacity benefits, how many appeals lodged against the Incapacity Benefit Personal Capability Assessment were upheld in each year between 2000 and 2006. [181957]

Bridget Prentice: From April 2000 until March 2006 308, 691 appeals were lodged against an incapacity benefit personal capability assessment. Of those lodged, 123,192 decisions were upheld.

April to March each year	*Lodged*	*Upheld*
2000-01	40,771	19,333
2001-02	47,473	17,773
2002-03	53,131	20,303
2003-04	56,514	22,037
2004-05	54,578	20,437
2005-06	56,224	23,309

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford's letter of 3 December 2007 on a constituent, reference: 182611/3702. [181956]

Mr. Straw: I wrote to the hon. Member on 28 January 2008. I apologise for the delay.

National Offender Management Information System

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely consequences of not rolling out C-NOMIS to the Probation Service; [182110]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of any decision not to roll-out C-NOMIS to the Probation Service. [182204]

Mr. Hanson: In its work to analyse the different options available going forward, the Strategic Review requested to consider the affordability of the NOMIS Programme, actively considered and assessed the implications of not rolling out C-NOMIS to probation areas.

Work is under way on the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS Programme announced after the completion of the review, to asses the way forward for probation case management systems, and where necessary, replace those that are most at risk. In addition, to improve the sharing of information between prisons and probation, and to further support the successful implementation of the Offender Management Model and public protection, work has started on both the OASys project to improve the current separate risk assessment systems and to re-develop them as a single national system, and the Data Share project to allow access to core case information between prison and probation areas.

I expect the programme to meet the objectives that were set following the Strategic Review to:

Enable improved business continuity by replacing ailing legacy case management and offender assessment applications in public prisons and probation;

Enable more efficient and effective operational management of offenders;

Support offender management processes and thereby reduce reoffending and enhance public protection;

Provide supplier neutral information to support Commissioners; and

Provide improved management information to enable improved performance.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated maximum capacity of the C-NOMIS system will be in each of the next 10 years. [182117]

Mr. Hanson: There is no maximum capacity in C-NOMIS. While the programme has estimated a total of 5 million records will be added to C-NOMIS in the next 10 years, this will be kept under constant review to allow officials to ensure that there will always be sufficient capacity in C-NOMIS to ensure the successful running of the system.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what has been the cost of the C-NOMIS project to date; and what the estimated cost is of national implementation of C-NOMIS. [182203]

Mr. Hanson: The total expenditure on the NOMIS programme, of which C-NOMIS forms the very major part, to the end of December 2007 is estimated at £179 million. The estimated lifetime cost of the NOMIS programme to 2019-20 before VAT, cost of capital and depreciation is £513 million.

Financial and business benefit from work completed on C-NOMIS is preserved. Nearly all of the expenditure attributable to C-NOMIS is relevant to its future use in HMPS as 'Prison NOMIS'. The other projects in the programme will continue to derive benefit from the investment and work to date.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned budget is in 2010-11 for *(a)* the central administration, *(b)* probation element and *(c)* prisons of the National Offender Management Service. [182909]

Mr. Hanson: The allocation of planned budgets for 2010-11 between these three areas has not yet been decided.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: ICT

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the efficiency of existing legacy IT systems used by the Probation Service; and if he will make a statement. [182115]

Mr. Hanson: Working within the terms of reference of the C-NOMIS Strategic Review, an assessment of the seven NPS legacy case management systems in use in the 42 probation areas was completed in September 2007. This identified a small number of areas where existing case management systems are failing and in urgent need of replacement, and a range of issues associated with CRAMS (the system in use in most probation areas) including obsolete software and hardware, and compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

A plan of works is in place to implement Delius, a system already used in some areas, where required as an urgent replacement during 2008-09, and to upgrade or replace CRAMS during 2009-10.

Open Prisons

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners convicted for *(a)* robbery and *(b)* grievous bodily harm were transferred to open prisons in 2007; [182339]

(2) how many prisoners convicted for *(a)* a violent offence and *(b)* actual bodily harm were transferred to open prisons in 2007; [182404]

(3) how many prisoners were detained in open prisons in England and Wales on the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by prison establishment. [182421]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the transfer of prisoners within the prison estate of establishments within England and Wales is not held centrally and to collect it would require extensive manual inspection of records.

The number of prisoners detained in open prisons in England and Wales at the end of November 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, can be found in the following table:

Prison	*Number of prisoners*
Open prisons	
Askham Grange	110
Drake Hall	307
East Sutton Park	97
Ford	471
Hewell Grange	186
Hollesley Bay	325
Kirkham	506
Leyhill	402
Moorland Open	246
North Sea Camp	276
Spring Hill	322
Standford Hill	437
Sudbury	545
Thorn Cross	214
Usk/Prescoed	380
Closed prisons with open units	
Morton Hall	366
Norwich	532
Reading	263
Wealstun	855

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Personal Injury

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of referral fees on the personal injury claims process; and if he will make a statement. [182141]

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the responses to the consultation on case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims; and if he will make a statement. [182142]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to my answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2208W.

Powers of Attorney: Elderly

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timing targets have been set for the Office of the Public Guardian to respond to *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* requests for an interim order to enable assets of an elderly person to be handled. [181755]

Bridget Prentice: The targets set for the Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection are set out in the Service Standards booklet which is available from the Office of the Public Guardian website.

The Office of the Public Guardian's commitment is to respond to 95 per cent. to correspondence (including letters, faxes and e-mails) within 15 working days of receipt.

The Office of the Public Guardian does not have a separate service standard in respect of requests for an interim order to enable assets of an elderly person to be handled but we would expect to place any request for interim directions before a Court of Protection Judge within 10 days of receipt.

Prison Accommodation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned capacity of the prison estate in England and Wales is in each year to 2014. [178711]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the current projected useable operational capacity of the prison estate in December of each year from 2008 to 2014.

Year (December)	*Useable operational capacity*[1]
2008	84,800
2009	86,200
2010	91,300
2011	93,300
2012	93,800
2013	93,800
2014	96,300

[1] Nearest 100.

Prisoners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average amount of time spent doing exercise each week by *(a)* young offenders and *(b)* adult prisoners was in each prison in the last 12 months. [180376]

Maria Eagle: The average weekly physical education and recreational sports activity per prisoner for each establishment during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (provisional to December) is shown in the following table. Data are not available to differentiate between adults and young offenders for those establishments that hold both.

These figures do not include any other time that prisoners may take exercise.

Prison rule (No. 29) requires that

> "If circumstances reasonably permit, a prisoner aged 21 years or over shall be given the opportunity to participate in physical education for at least one hour a week."

The reality is that some adult prisoners choose not to participate in PE.

The table of figures in the answer has been calculated using the total (average) prison population for each establishment—not the number of prisoners that actually participate, which significantly reduces the average figure for those that choose to participate. Data are not available to show the levels of participation at each establishment.

Participation is subject to a number of factors including the type of prisoner held, the facilities available and personal choice.

			Average weekly PE and recreational sport hours per prisoner	
Type	*Establishment name*	*Establishment type*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Adult	Acklington	Category C	1.56	2.20
Adult	Albany	Category B	2.06	2.79
Adult	Altcourse	Male Local	3.78	3.75
Adult	Ashwell	Category C	4.96	5.21
Adult	Askham Grange	Female Open	0.72	1.72
Adult	Bedford	Male Local	1.84	1.98
Adult	Belmarsh	Male Local	1.58	1.38
Adult	Birmingham	Male Local	1.40	1.46
Adult	Blakenhurst	Male Local	2.81	2.08
Adult	Blantyre House	Semi Open	3.61	3.92
Adult	Blundeston	Category C	3.22	4.10
Adult	Bristol	Male Local	1.59	1.52
Adult	Brixton	Male Local	0.32	0.99
Adult	Brockhill	Category C	2.24	4.34
Adult	Bronzefield	Female Local	2.13	3.51
Adult	Buckley Hall	Category C	2.42	2.24
Adult	Bullingdon	Male Local	2.14	2.32
Adult	Bullwood Hall	Category C	0.88	1.39
Adult	Camp Hill	Category C	2.28	2.14
Adult	Canterbury	Category C	4.08	4.31
Adult	Cardiff	Male Local	1.50	1.52
Adult	Channings Wood	Category C	1.02	1.89
Adult	Chelmsford	Male Local	3.16	2.53
Adult	Coldingley	Category C	1.76	2.09
Adult	Cookham Wood	Female Closed	0.51	1.01
Adult	Dartmoor	Category C	1.83	2.00
Adult	Doncaster	Male Local	1.73	1.76
Adult	Dorchester	Male Local	2.45	2.84
Adult	Dovegate	Category B	2.41	1.93
Adult	Downview	Female Closed	2.93	2.67
Adult	Drake Hall	Semi Open	1.95	2.80
Adult	Durham	Male Local	1.64	1.76
Adult	East Sutton Park	Female Open	0.19	0.10

Type	*Establishment name*	*Establishment type*	*Average weekly PE and recreational sport hours per prisoner*	
			2006-07	*2007-08*[1]
Adult	Eastwood Park	Female Local	0.50	0.85
Adult	Edmunds Hill	Category C	2.08	2.48
Adult	Elmley	Male Local	1.76	1.80
Adult	Erlestoke	Category C	2.33	2.63
Adult	Everthorpe	Category C	2.17	2.49
Adult	Exeter	Male Local	1.83	1.90
Adult	Featherstone	Category C	2.55	2.50
Adult	Ford	Male Open	3.85	3.90
Adult	Forest Bank	Male Local	8.85	9.98
Adult	Foston Hall	Female Closed	0.76	1.79
Adult	Frankland	Dispersal	2.09	2.25
Adult	Full Sutton	Dispersal	2.76	2.86
Adult	Garth	Category B	2.20	1.98
Adult	Gartree	Category B	2.12	1.71
Adult	Gloucester	Male Local	1.67	2.20
Adult	Grendon	Category B	1.38	1.81
Adult	Guys Marsh	Category C	2.56	3.08
Adult	Haverigg	Category C	3.25	2.74
Adult	Hewell Grange	Male Open	3.67	4.99
Adult	High Down	Male Local	1.53	1.73
Adult	Highpoint	Category C	1.58	1.87
Adult	Hollesley Bay	Male Open	3.26	3.33
Adult	Holloway	Female Local	2.06	2.25
Adult	Holme House	Male Local	1.88	2.22
Adult	Hull	Male Local	1.29	1.41
Adult	Kennet	Category C	n/a	5.58
Adult	Kingston	Category B	2.92	3.92
Adult	Kirkham	Male Open	4.21	3.63
Adult	Kirklevington	Semi Open	3.15	2.80
Adult	Lancaster	Category C	3.54	3.17
Adult	Latchmere House	Semi Open	3.44	1.49
Adult	Leeds	Male Local	1.08	1.16
Adult	Leicester	Male Local	2.66	3.02
Adult	Lewes	Male Local	2.13	1.97
Adult	Leyhill	Male Open	3.63	4.49
Adult	Lincoln	Male Local	1.27	0.90
Adult	Lindholme	Category C	2.77	2.92
Adult	Littlehey	Category C	2.21	2.05
Adult	Liverpool	Male Local	1.33	1.42
Adult	Long Lartin	Dispersal	2.45	3.31
Adult	Low Newton	Female Local	1.03	1.63
Adult	Lowdham Grange	Category B	2.78	1.57
Adult	Maidstone	Category C	1.66	1.60
Adult	Manchester	Male Local	1.19	1.09
Adult	Moorland	Category C	3.76	3.98
Adult	Morton Hall	Semi Open	2.61	3.10
Adult	Mount	Category C	1.94	2.24
Adult	New Hall	Female Local	1.63	1.85
Adult	North Sea Camp	Male Open	3.25	4.17
Adult	Norwich	Male Local	1.27	1.98
Adult	Nottingham	Male Local	2.66	2.50
Adult	Onley	Category C	3.51	3.33
Adult	Parc	Male Local	0.36	2.91
Adult	Parkhurst	Category B	2.02	1.92
Adult	Pentonville	Male Local	0.92	1.29
Adult	Peterborough	Male Local	3.25	1.25
Adult	Preston	Male Local	2.36	2.09
Adult	Ranby	Category C	2.97	2.91
Adult	Risley	Category C	2.26	1.99
Adult	Rye Hill	Category B	2.07	1.88
Adult	Send	Female Closed	1.99	1.51
Adult	Shepton Mallet	Category C	1.85	1.95
Adult	Shrewsbury	Male Local	1.56	1.54
Adult	Stafford	Category C	3.07	3.32
Adult	Standford Hill	Male Open	1.55	1.80
Adult	Stocken	Category C	3.71	2.02
Adult	Styal	Female Local	2.10	2.14
Adult	Sudbury	Male Open	3.37	3.14
Adult	Swaleside	Category B	2.19	2.59
Adult	Swansea	Male Local	1.56	2.46
Adult	Usk/Prescoed	Category C	2.15	2.28
Adult	Verne	Category C	2.09	1.58
Adult	Wakefield	Dispersal	1.72	1.92
Adult	Wandsworth	Male Local	1.29	1.58
Adult	Wayland	Category C	3.16	3.97
Adult	Wealstun	Category C	2.60	2.48
Adult	Wellingborough	Category C	1.86	2.24
Adult	Whatton	Category C	2.39	2.56
Adult	Whitemoor	Dispersal	2.34	2.01
Adult	Winchester	Male Local	1.57	1.92
Adult	Wolds	Category C	2.34	2.14
Adult	Woodhill	Male Local	1.68	1.50
Adult	Wormwood Scrubs	Male Local	1.97	1.43
Adult	Wymott	Category C	1.70	1.90
Juvenile	Ashfield	Male Juvenile	4.05	3.50
Juvenile	Huntercombe	Male Juvenile	3.88	5.62
Juvenile	Warren Hill	Male Juvenile	3.31	3.04
Juvenile	Werrington	Male Juvenile	4.20	3.84
Juvenile	Wetherby	Male Juvenile	3.46	3.58
Young Offender	Aylesbury	Male Closed YOI	3.47	3.65
Young Offender	Brinsford	Male Closed YOI	2.87	2.61
Young Offender	Castington	Male Closed YOI	3.22	2.65
Young Offender	Deerbolt	Male Closed YOI	3.44	3.98
Young Offender	Feltham	Male Closed YOI	4.25	3.43
Young Offender	Glen Parva	Male Closed YOI	2.63	2.71
Young Offender	Hindley	Male Closed YOI	3.11	3.88
Young Offender	Lancaster Farms	Male Closed YOI	2.88	2.54
Young Offender	Northallerton	Male Closed YOI	3.34	3.40
Young Offender	Portland	Male Closed YOI	2.62	2.20
Young Offender	Reading	Male Closed YOI	3.14	3.27
Young Offender	Rochester	Male Closed YOI	1.90	2.79
Young Offender	Stoke Heath	Male Closed YOI	4.54	3.38
Young Offender	Swinfen Hall	Male Closed YOI	3.67	3.52
Young Offender	Thorn Cross	Male Open YOI	7.30	8.04

[1] Provisional year to date—subject to ongoing validation.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to designate additional prisons for foreign nationals only. [178757]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no plans to designate a third prison solely for foreign nationals although the use of the estate is kept under regular review.

Prisoners: Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service has spent on taxis for prisoners in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [182383]

Maria Eagle: Taxis are not routinely used for transporting prisoners to and from court or for inter-prison transfers. However, they are used for a variety of individual and short-notice journeys for prisoners, subject to risk assessment, where prison or other transport is not available and where it is cost-effective to do so. This can include journeys for medical treatment where an ambulance is not appropriate, urgent transfers between prisons, and travel to work or community placements where there is no suitable public transport. Taxi fares are normally paid through an account and the costs of journeys undertaken by prisoners cannot be identified separately from official journeys undertaken by staff.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the role of dedicated search teams in prison establishments. [182148]

Maria Eagle: The aim of Dedicated Search Teams is to reduce the risk posed by prisoners held in high security prisons.

Dedicated Search Teams were a recommendation made by Sir John Woodcock following the escape of six prisoners from the Special Secure Unit at Whitemoor prison in September 1994, which the then Home Secretary accepted in full. Recommendation 9 stated:

> "The Lakes/Hadfield proposal for dedicated and specially equipped search teams in prisons holding Category A inmates should be mandatory. Such teams should have available to them on a regular basis dogs trained to identify firearms, explosives and drugs."

All Directorate of High Security establishments are funded for Dedicated Search Teams consisting of 2 x Senior Officers and 12 x Officers.

The aim of Dedicated Search Teams is ultimately to reduce the risk posed by prisoners held in Directorate of High Security Estate establishments. These prisoners, many of whom are Category A, would represent a significant risk to the public should they escape.

All staff joining Dedicated Search Teams attend a one week course at PSC Newbold Revel where they receive intensive search training. The search training was developed to ensure that:

The Prison Service was equipped to manage the threat of firearms and explosives entering establishments

Establishments were able to search items held in possession by prisoners by specialist search teams who would provide a higher level of assurance to prison management that possessions did not conceal illicit items, particularly firearms and explosives

Establishments were able to conduct offensive searches in response to intelligence suggesting escape planning, etc.

Establishments were able to plan and execute full lock down searches in response to intelligence suggesting escape planning, etc.

Dedicated Search Teams are also used to bolster security at Crown courts where Category A prisoners are appearing by conducting pre trial 'search and seal exercises'.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on officer assaults were recorded in each year since 2002, broken down by prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [182640]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is set out in the tables and subject to important qualifications. The Prison Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault data are complex and may include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact incidents. Information on assault incidents may involve more than one assaulter or more than one victim. In a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other and Other. Recording of assaults on prison officers sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff.

(a) Prisoner on Prisoner

Prison name	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Acklington	49	39	33	38	73	65
Albany	3	5	15	3	4	2
Altcourse	163	159	183	194	195	223
Ashfield	429	271	304	500	625	650
Ashwell	8	9	15	17	9	17
Askham Grange	1	—	1	—	1	1
Aylesbury	44	26	21	78	80	76
Bedford	49	44	49	41	55	36
Belmarsh	60	76	67	53	51	25
Birmingham	90	105	130	103	117	105
Blakenhurst	271	256	192	149	151	212
Blantyre House	—	—	—	1	—	—
Blundeston	36	39	26	14	15	33
Brinsford	281	304	326	344	187	184
Bristol	107	84	100	95	85	72
Brixton	130	120	106	73	38	56
Brockhill	23	25	19	28	20	8
Bronzefield	—	—	37	92	113	98
Buckley Hall	45	72	76	62	57	36
Bullingdon	59	40	36	59	45	68

(a) Prisoner on Prisoner

Prison name	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Bullwood Hall	—	—	—	20	16	10
Camp Hill	47	67	51	54	55	[2]—
Canterbury	9	5	12	15	13	19
Cardiff	46	50	53	50	47	25
Castington	363	312	384	361	360	383
Channings Wood	12	21	22	38	53	52
Chelmsford	60	62	82	68	105	32
Coldingley	2	—	16	7	18	11
Cookham Wood	7	12	7	2	4	5
Dartmoor	25	20	11	29	26	25
Deerbolt	154	167	205	164	152	159
Doncaster	87	39	77	94	144	124
Dorchester	9	13	11	19	18	31
Dovegate	40	56	73	66	66	54
Downview	13	6	14	29	25	11
Drake Hall	3	13	7	9	6	18
Durham	65	59	79	89	146	126
East Sutton Park	—	—	3	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	14	23	31	51	47	15
Edmunds Hill	—	47	26	23	27	25
Elmley	88	84	104	134	100	123
Erlestoke	6	10	26	26	22	35
Everthorpe	9	5	20	42	65	69
Exeter	37	37	26	34	35	24
Featherstone	60	51	54	69	70	90
Feltham	459	569	576	549	476	425
Ford	7	2	20	17	6	6
Forest Bank	304	308	397	430	339	213
Foston Hall	17	19	26	26	23	28
Frankland	15	21	18	24	26	31
Full Sutton	8	15	27	37	44	50
Garth	36	23	27	59	63	64
Gartree	1	1	2	9	8	12
Glen Parva	222	241	230	269	341	362
Gloucester	56	36	62	41	56	47
Grendon/ Spring Hill	4	5	4	2	2	5
Guys Marsh	43	41	49	43	57	72
Haslar	5	1	—	2	1	6
Haverigg	19	17	22	30	41	68
Hewell Grange	—	1	6	—	1	3
High Down	85	97	119	101	134	112
Highpoint	130	82	91	72	74	79
Hindley	88	177	63	112	348	497
Hollesley Bay	179	45	1	4	2	3
Holloway	98	91	80	94	121	112
Holme House	71	89	69	86	98	123
Hull	84	91	168	166	121	138
Huntercombe	44	77	79	95	184	279
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	4
Kingston	—	2	3	1	3	1
Kirkham	3	1	4	3	1	3
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lancaster	12	11	4	10	10	19
Lancaster Farms	130	17	185	435	363	337
Leeds	96	148	136	109	104	92
Leicester	70	59	53	42	51	34
Lewes	89	104	60	62	73	61
Leyhill	—	3	5	6	7	2
Lincoln	81	68	47	56	60	87
Lindholme	17	43	42	33	37	51
Littlehey	31	32	37	41	39	37
Liverpool	94	109	118	127	162	225
Long Lartin	16	17	16	36	38	43
Low Newton	94	117	89	62	68	63
Lowdham Grange	20	19	20	37	73	41
Maidstone	16	10	21	14	11	17
Manchester	191	217	182	142	172	127
Moorland	177	139	34	94	89	90
Moorland Open	28	11	3	8	1	1
Morton Hall	7	13	16	9	15	12
Mount	17	25	16	55	48	43
New Hall	47	32	77	84	44	56
North Sea Camp			4	3	7	2
Northallerton	80	82	84	104	82	96
Norwich	132	128	11	20	40	12
Nottingham	61	66	74	64	55	84
Onley	516	509	161	152	153	214
Parc	198	233	227	247	241	315
Parkhurst	16	34	38	37	33	[2]—
Pentonville	129	165	120	139	155	139
Peterborough	—	—	—	100	221	221
Portland	71	61	125	154	127	189
Preston	23	71	62	77	78	104
Ranby	39	38	19	30	52	42
Reading	7	23	25	76	57	44
Risley	39	60	107	103	102	107
Rochester	32	51	102	78	100	75
Rye Hill	10	19	40	53	65	66
Send	4	5	2	17	11	6
Shepton Mallet	10	3	3	1	—	4
Shrewsbury	35	44	41	50	29	39
Stafford	11	19	41	58	39	76
Standford Hill	2	3	2	7	5	4
Stocken	37	36	33	39	43	58
Stoke Heath	241	137	239	438	506	526
Styal	13	9	28	25	39	58
Sudbury	1	1	1	2	—	4
Swaleside	32	25	25	32	41	51
Swansea	9	16	16	20	30	19
Swinfen Hall	127	110	96	104	89	87
Thorn Cross	56	39	7	19	143	83
Usk\Prescoed	1	2	1	3	1	8
Verne	10	13	16	22	9	10
Wakefield	10	8	18	26	24	18
Wandsworth	54	51	74	77	69	93
Warren Hill	—	93	162	256	268	317
Wayland	23	65	51	59	49	58

(a) Prisoner on Prisoner

Prison name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Wealstun	9	14	7	9	28	21
Weare	48	52	55	23	—	—
Wellingborough	12	17	12	30	49	35
Werrington	114	129	104	139	143	141
Wetherby	41	175	414	492	403	349
Whatton	3	9	5	2	8	15
Whitemoor	30	18	15	21	21	30
Winchester	43	65	57	47	35	26
Wolds	52	27	41	23	30	49
Woodhill	7	27	51	67	57	52
Wormwood Scrubs	69	89	129	142	147	136
Wymott	—	8	3	9	23	28

(b) Prisoner on Officer

Prison name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Acklington	2	3	3	5	7	9
Albany	2	3	—	—	3	[2]—
Altcourse	45	43	40	44	36	50
Ashfield	124	62	71	152	127	82
Ashwell	1	1	—	—	4	2
Aylesbury	12	15	5	15	18	11
Bedford	17	13	10	14	27	12
Belmarsh	82	52	43	34	22	22
Birmingham	53	58	83	93	78	69
Blakenhurst	10	25	51	44	31	35
Blundeston	3	2	4	7	7	1
Brinsford	24	31	26	17	8	11
Bristol	51	25	45	28	41	14
Brixton	73	48	62	49	37	32
Brockhill	13	5	10	14	9	3
Bronzefield	—	—	17	85	77	41
Buckley Hall	12	36	16	23	10	11
Bullingdon	24	23	14	15	22	21
Bullwood Hall	1	—	—	8	6	2
Camp Hill	8	12	8	12	5	[2]—
Canterbury	4	7	4	4	3	4
Cardiff	14	11	15	19	14	3
Castington	53	52	53	50	42	41
Channings Wood	3	4	10	8	7	15
Chelmsford	25	15	21	37	51	21
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	2	7
Cookham Wood	2	14	5	3	1	2
Dartmoor	10	9	5	11	7	8
Deerbolt	9	5	25	32	21	34
Doncaster	30	25	22	24	45	28
Dorchester	2	4	2	9	9	8
Dovegate	29	46	75	34	55	42
Downview	10	6	7	29	9	11
Drake Hall	1	—	—	1	1	—
Durham	24	34	29	41	43	57
East Sutton Park	—	1	1	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	5	11	7	21	25	8
Edmunds Hill	—	9	20	9	13	2
Elmley	23	25	20	30	17	27
Erlestoke	—	—	2	2	2	9
Everthorpe	2	2	2	9	13	12
Exeter	12	11	2	7	11	8
Featherstone	17	8	18	5	9	16
Feltham	83	102	169	129	115	102
Ford	1	3	7	5	2	3
Forest Bank	39	62	75	82	50	33
Foston Hall	28	14	8	11	25	25
Frankland	12	5	13	9	10	18
Full Sutton	7	11	11	17	13	8
Garth	8	10	5	6	8	8
Gartree	—	—	1	2	3	1
Glen Parva	41	27	39	31	40	50
Gloucester	12	13	6	12	13	6
Grendon/Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1
Guys Marsh	1	6	5	3	12	15
Haverigg	2	6	2	1	4	17
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	2	—	1
High Down	59	45	56	38	69	65
Highpoint	46	20	18	13	22	19
Hindley	25	23	13	30	55	41
Hollesley Bay	18	4	3	—	—	—
Holloway	88	88	93	78	99	87
Holme House	13	20	18	27	24	20
Hull	16	27	29	33	23	30
Huntercombe	15	18	15	14	32	22
Kingston	2	1	—	1	2	—
Kirkham	1	—	—	—	—	2
Lancaster	1	—	3	1	2	1
Lancaster Farms	20	9	27	46	51	31
Leeds	56	75	39	36	16	18
Leicester	15	11	5	7	16	7
Lewes	14	20	10	15	13	13
Leyhill	—	—	1	1	—	3
Lincoln	20	11	21	20	15	22
Lindholme	5	18	5	12	13	19
Littlehey	6	12	10	10	5	2
Liverpool	37	45	35	21	18	30
Long Lartin	7	5	5	15	11	15
Low Newton	27	6	24	27	19	17
Lowdham Grange	4	4	12	16	34	39
Maidstone	2	6	5	1	—	5
Manchester	53	58	59	69	65	77
Moorland	22	21	13	20	16	13
Morton Hall	4	1	3	2	5	1
Mount	5	13	7	8	15	19
New Hall	25	21	14	23	57	45
North Sea Camp	1	2	—	—	—	1
Northallerton	6	11	13	10	6	5
Norwich	24	24	17	18	17	1
Nottingham	12	15	28	12	22	43
Onley	68	86	13	27	29	22
Parc	27	55	57	44	48	48
Parkhurst	9	18	16	14	2	[2]—
Pentonville	113	90	94	120	59	57
Peterborough	—	—	—	72	134	111
Portland	22	15	39	37	41	37

(b) Prisoner on Officer

Prison name	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Preston	10	9	17	24	29	44
Ranby	9	8	3	3	16	16
Reading	6	7	16	14	11	9
Risley	15	18	26	32	28	23
Rochester	5	15	16	23	13	4
Rye Hill	18	20	38	65	47	41
Send	2	4	—	2	3	1
Shepton Mallet	2	1	—	—	—	1
Shrewsbury	3	11	3	3	6	5
Stafford	8	10	6	13	11	8
Standford Hill	—	—	—	—	1	1
Stocken	10	9	8	12	7	9
Stoke Heath	47	20	37	52	63	65
Styal	4	7	12	13	32	45
Sudbury		2	—	—	1	—
Swaleside	29	17	16	7	10	5
Swansea	5	6	4	3	5	—
Swinfen Hall	7	8	4	10	9	9
Thorn Cross	1	3	1	1	3	1
Usk\Prescoed	—	—	—	—	1	1
Verne	1	1	5	3	—	—
Wakefield	7	7	7	9	8	12
Wandsworth	79	73	84	86	36	31
Warren Hill	—	12	19	34	35	46
Wayland	7	11	8	2	9	10
Wealstun		2		3	2	6
Weare	9	10	6	4		—
Wellingborough	1	1	1	16	13	5
Werrington	5	21	18	19	19	12
Wetherby	9	11	70	66	56	34
Whatton	—	1	1	—	4	11
Whitemoor	22	15	16	18	10	21
Winchester	13	13	13	10	10	3
Wolds	12	7	10	3	8	2
Woodhill	16	35	39	71	68	52
Wormwood Scrubs	54	37	69	57	54	67
Wymott	—	1	—	4	4	4

[1] There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.

[2] NOM - CNOMIS (offender management information system) sites where data is not available at time of compilation.

Probation Service

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department will allocate an increased budget to probation services in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [182907]

(2) whether his Department will allocate an increased budget to probation services in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11. [182908]

Mr. Hanson: The local probation boards' and trusts' budgets have not been settled for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Indicative budget planning figures for 2008-09 for the main grant, which forms the major part of Boards' and Trusts' budgets, show an average increase of 2.7 per cent.

Probation: ICT

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on resolving IT problems connected with probation at his Department in each of the last four years. [181936]

Mr. Hanson: The Department does not keep specific records concerning the cost of IT problem resolution with probation. It does however have a support and operating contract from Steria, its key supply partner. Embedded within this support contract is the resolution of problems.

Probation: Northumbria

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on employees' terms and conditions of budget reductions in the Northumbria probation area. [182414]

Maria Eagle: There are no budget reductions in the Northumbria probation area. Terms and conditions of service are determined nationally through the National Negotiating Council of the National Probation Service and this national collective bargaining is retained as probation boards move to trust status from April 2008. A modernised pay and grading structure supported by a national job evaluation scheme was introduced in 2005. Local boards have the ability to negotiate some lesser terms and conditions such as essential car user allowance. These are a matter for the local employer in this case the Northumbria Probation Board through consultation and negotiation with their employees.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect on trainee probation officers of budget reductions in the Northumbria probation area. [182415]

Maria Eagle: Northumbria was able to recruit 24 trainee probation officers during Cohort 10 (07/08), having not recruited for the previous two Cohorts. A new process for training will be introduced in October 2008 and because of this, the number of trainees each board will recruit is currently unknown.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether staff will be made redundant as a result of budget reductions in the Northumbria probation area. [182416]

Maria Eagle: There will be no budget reductions in 2008-09 in Northumbria probation area. Northumbria's budget will increase from £25,484 million to £25,995 million between 2007-08 and 2008-09 (2.01 per cent.). In addition, their 3 Year Corporate Plan includes a programme of cash savings of up to £1.3 million from their non staffing budget. They are however considering the option of some voluntary redundancies phased over Years 1 and 2 of the 3 year period.

Public Law Family Fees Consultation Paper

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to ensure that the concerns of local government lawyers will be addressed by the Public Law Family Fees Consultation Paper. [182775]

Bridget Prentice: All responses received to the consultation including any concerns expressed by local government lawyers will be considered carefully. The consultation will close on the 11 March 2008.

Whitemoor Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* deaths by natural causes and *(b)* suicides at HM Prison Whitemoor in each year since 1992; what assessment he has made of any (i) trend or (ii) causality; what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of suicide at the establishment; and if he will make a statement. [182150]

Maria Eagle: The information requested at *(a)* and *(b)* of the question is included in the following table:

	Type of death	
	Natural causes	*Self-inflicted*
1992	0	0
1993	0	0
1994	1	0
1995	0	1
1996	2	0
1997	2	0
1998	1	1
1999	1	0
2000	0	0
2001	0	0
2003	2	0
2004	2	0
2005	0	0
2006	1	1
2007	1	4

(i) There is no discernable trend to the self-inflicted deaths at Whitemoor, though all four such deaths in 2007 were Category A Life Sentenced prisoner who are a traditionally high risk group.

(ii) Since 2004 the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has been conducting investigations into all deaths in prison custody. All such deaths are also subject to a coroners inquest. The investigations into the four most recent self-inflicted deaths at Whitemoor are incomplete. Whitemoor, like much of the prison estate, contains a population with a high proportion of very vulnerable individuals, many of whom have experienced negative life events that we know increase the likelihood of them harming themselves. Issues that increase risk include drug/alcohol abuse, family background and relationship problems, social disadvantage or isolation, previous sexual or physical abuse, and mental health problems. Between July 2006 and July 2007 the proportion of prisoners at Whitemoor with a life/indeterminate sentence rose from 58 per cent. to 64 per cent. but this change appears insufficient to explain the recent self-inflicted deaths. At the request of the governor, the Prison Service's Directorate of High Security Prisons has established a group to review the five self-inflicted deaths which occurred at Whitemoor prison between November 2006 and December 2007.

Every death in prison affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers and the Prison Service are completely committed to reducing the number of such tragic incidents. The updated Prison Service suicide prevention strategy was published in October 2007 with implementation due to be completed in every prison, including Whitemoor, by end-April 2008. Building on several years of learning from the experience of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, it incorporates developments such as improved cross-agency information flows, the provision of safer cells, increasing prisoner peer support, and the introduction of ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork) the care-planning system for prisoners at-risk of suicide or self-harm, introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07.

At Whitemoor itself a Head of Decency to oversee the whole safer prisons strategy has been appointed, local safer custody policies have been re-visited, communication of prisoner safety information across the establishment improved, and there is an action plan which ensures that all actions identified following any death are implemented.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff at HM Prison Whitemoor have been dismissed in each of the last 24 months; what reason was given for each dismissal; and if he will make a statement. [182151]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of staff dismissed from HMP Whitemoor by category of dismissal in each month of 2006 and 2007 is contained in the following table. The information relates to operational and non-operational staff. The average number of staff during this period was 763.

Staff dismissed From HMP Whitemoor—January 2006 to December 2007

	Dismissals		
	Disciplinary	*Inefficiency*	*Total*
2006			
January	—	—	—
February	—	—	—
March	—	1	1
April	—	—	—
May	—	—	—
June	—	—	—
July	—	—	—
August	—	—	—
September	—	2	2
October	—	—	—
November	—	—	—
December	—	—	—
2007			
January	3	1	4
February	1	3	4
March	—	—	—
April	1	1	2
May	—	2	2
June	—	—	—
July	—	—	—
August	2	1	3
September	—	—	—
October	1	1	2
November	—	—	—
December	—	—	—
Total	8	12	20

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what support is being made available to *(a)* governors and *(b)* prison officers at HM Prison Whitemoor to assist with (i) stress and (ii) mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [182152]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order 3601 requires area managers and governing governors to *(a)* assess the risks to their employees health from stress and psychological hazards, *(b)* implement procedures for managing those risks, and *(c)* provide support for staff suffering from stress or psychological harm as a result of their work.

A range of services is already in place within prisons to support staff affected by stress, depression or anxiety related illnesses. These include services accessible through staff care and welfare and support provided locally by care teams.

A member of the Whitemoor staff care team is always available to offer assistance and support to staff. Additionally arrangements are available under contract for staff to receive personal support and telephone counselling should there be a need. Where it is considered parts of the prison might be likely to generate particular stress, group peer support supervision sessions are arranged in addition to psychology staff being available to offer advice and support to staff.

An Occupational Health Adviser has been appointed by Whitemoor to provide a range of interventions and advice in relation to stress and health issues.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* drugs have been recovered at HM Prison Whitemoor in each of the last 12 months; what assessment he has made of the contribution to contraband detection at the establishment through (i) dedicated search teams, (ii) prison dogs, (iii) the prison's correspondence office, (iv) wing staff and (v) security intelligence reports; and if he will make a statement. [182153]

Maria Eagle: For each month between January 2007 and December 2007, the number of mobile telephones and drugs recovered was:

		Number
2007	*Mobile telephones*	*Drugs*
January	2	5
February	5	2
March	0	7
April	2	1
May	5	2
June	10	7
July	6	5
August	4	3
September	2	1
October	5	10
November	6	6
December	13	9
Total	60	58

There has been no individual assessment of the contribution each part of the prison plays in the detection of unauthorised items coming into or found within the prison, since in many cases it is the cooperation of all staff that permits the discovery of illicit material. It is not Prison Service policy to comment on the specific measures each establishment is taking to prevent contraband from coming into the establishment. Whitemoor deploys a wide variety of resources to do so.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the levels of staff morale at HM Prison Whitemoor in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [182154]

Maria Eagle: Aspects of staff morale are assessed in the annual Prison Service staff opinion survey. The following table shows results for HM Prison Whitemoor from 2002 to 2006, the most recent five years of published figures. The numbers in the table are the percentage of staff responding to the survey who agreed with statements about job satisfaction and pride in working for the Prison Service.

Results for Whitemoor Prison from the annual staff surveys: Percentage of responders agreeing to statements

	Overall I am satisfied with the job I do	*I am proud to work for the Prison Service*
2002	[1]—	[1]—
2003	71	55
2004	70	55
2005	73	55
2006	79	62

[1] Not included in survey sample.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been an investigation of all those with management responsibility at HM Prison Whitemoor; and if he will make a statement. [182403]

Maria Eagle: No. Investigations do however take place into the actions of staff, including individual managers, where specific complaints or concerns about their conduct have been raised.

Young Offenders

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average age was of *(a)* juvenile and *(b)* young offenders in secure accommodation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [182637]

Mr. Hanson: The average age of juveniles (those aged between 15 and 17) detained within prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June was 16.5 in each year between 2002, the earliest year for which this information is available, and 2007; the average age of young adults[1] was 19.3 in each year since 2002.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African Union: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's financial contribution to the African Union is in 2007-08; what this contribution has been used to fund; and what plans the Government have to provide funding for these budget lines in 2008-09. [181735]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID has provided £20,000 in 2007-08 to the African Union Commission (AUC) to support the upgrade of its procurement manual to international standards.

DFID has approved £500,000 over two years towards the African Union Commission's Institutional Transformation programme. The first instalment (£125,000) was due in 2007-08; however, the AUC are still to agree to the DFID funding arrangement.

The Africa Conflict Prevention programme has allocated £1 million for the African Union Peace and Security Department for 2007-08 and has allocated £1.25 million for 2008-09.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Commission for Africa Report recommendation that donors agree to fund at least 50 per cent. of the African Union's (AU's) Peace Fund from 2005 onwards has been implemented; what representations he has made to international donors to encourage further funding for the AU's Peace Fund; and if he will make a statement. [181737]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK supported the Commission for Africa's recommendation that at least 50 per cent. of the African Union Peace Fund should be supported by donors. A payment of £5.5 million was made in 2006 through the Africa Peace Fund for the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). However, as both the scale of AU peacekeeping operations increased, and donors increased their support, other funding channels have been developed with the AU, including further contributions for peacekeeping operations in Somalia and Sudan. This provides greater operational effectiveness and accountability for donor funds, and means that less use of the Peace Fund is likely to be made in future.

The UK continues to work with other donors in the EU and at the UN to find a mechanism that ensures predictable financing for AU peace work, while providing appropriate levels of accountability.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK has provided by voluntary contribution to the African Union Peace Fund since 2005. [181738]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2006, the UK provided a contribution of £5.5 million through the AU Peace Fund to cover the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) running costs for the period 15 November 2005 to 31 March 2006. Since then, and in common with other donors, UK support has been via separate financing arrangements rather than the AU Peace Fund. For example, the UK provided at least £31.5 million for AMIS, through specific AU bank accounts set up for this purpose, to enhance operational effectiveness and accountability for the fund.

Bangladesh: Prices

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of rising commodity prices on living standards in Bangladesh. [182105]

Mr. Malik: Economic growth in Bangladesh has been positive since 1976, increasing from 2.2 per cent. in the turbulent 1970s to 5.7 per cent. between 2000 and 2006. This is a major achievement for a country frequently suffering from natural and political shocks. However, the rising prices of commodities are a real concern for the people and government of Bangladesh. Government spending is high on subsidies for fuel, fertiliser, utilities and basic foods to ensure people can still purchase these products. However, this puts further pressure on Bangladesh's fiscal deficit. The dramatically rising rice prices are having a negative impact on the living standards of the poor in particular. These price rises are not only due to international price increases, but have also been exacerbated by other factors such as rising overall inflation, and reduced domestic agricultural production due to the floods in August and the cyclone in November 2007.

The UK Government are monitoring the situation closely. During my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's visit to Bangladesh in December, he personally met with the Bangladesh Finance Adviser where he discussed the issue of rising prices and the immense challenge this is for Bangladesh. While our development programme is providing some assistance to counteract the impact of rising food prices through our ongoing programmes and some additional short-term measures in response to cyclone SIDR, it remains the government of Bangladesh's responsibility to tackle this challenge, beginning with the issue of rising inflation.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181814]

Mr. Malik: DFID has recently taken various steps to further reduce future carbon emissions including:

all UK sites are covered by Environment Management Systems;

we have signed up to the Carbon Trust Energy Efficiency Programme;

we have installed sub-metering and natural ventilation to our IT server rooms;

we regularly have awareness-raising campaigns for staff;

we have achieved accreditation to the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme;

during 2008-2009 we are finalising feasibility studies into renewable technologies in our Scottish office site including a wind turbine and biomass boiler;

conducted investigations of the possibility of further efficiency measures such as tri-generation at our London office;

implemented internal targets to reduce air miles flown by 5 per cent. per year.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the (a) value, (b) purpose and (c) contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181882]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp provides the requested information on consultancy contracts awarded during the period January 2005 to November 2007. This does not include low-value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices. To produce a separate list of these would incur a disproportionate cost.

Due to the development nature of DFID projects, the related contracts tend to be longer term in duration with a range of reports being produced by the consultant at key review points of the project. These reports are normally available to the public on request, but may be subject to legitimate restrictions to take account of the requirements of the Data Protection Act, exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act and contractual terms and conditions in relation to intellectual property rights.

Departmental Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter, dated 9th November 2007, on funding to the World Bank. [179002]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* A reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 9 November 2007 has been issued.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179465]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has already taken various steps to reduce waste arisings, including waste from paper, and has met the Government target to reduce waste by 5 per cent. by 2010, relative to 2004-05 levels. For instance, DFID regularly takes action to raise staff awareness on minimising waste, including paper, through notices on our internal intranet and poster campaigns. In 2005 we introduced an Electronic Document and Records Management Database, and the training on the system actively promotes retaining only key e-mails electronically. During a recent IT upgrade DFID reduced the number of printers by over 30 per cent.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is of each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180572]

Mr. Malik: The contract for the ARIES Finance, Procurement and Reporting System was signed in November 2005. The original planned completion date was October 2008. The projected supplier base cost at tender was £11 million. A number of additional cost options are available under the contract. The current expected completion date is July 2009 with an estimated supplier base cost of £16 million. This estimate reflects agreed changes to the scope of the project, a software upgrade, additional consultancy support for change management, development of end-user training materials and assistance with training and rollout.

The contract for the Quest electronic document and records management project was signed in March 2004. The main rollout was originally estimated to be completed in December 2005. Detailed planning carried out in early 2005 led to a revised target date of March 2006, which was met. Additional planned enhancements are on track to be completed in March 2008. The projected supplier base cost at tender was £8.98 million. The current projected total supplier cost is £11.68 million, including additional cost options available under the original contract.

The web transformation project began in December 2007. The current expected completion date is December 2008, but planning is not yet complete. The projected cost is £2 million.

The HR transformation project started in March 2005 and is on track to be complete in March 2008 as planned. The original budget was £6.5 million and the current forecast is £6 million.

The laptop refresh project started in October 2007 and is on track to complete the procurement stage by the end of February 2008 as planned. The estimated completion date for the rollout is December 2008. The original budget was £1.8 million and the current forecast is £1.7 million.

The virtual private network replacement project started in March 2007 and was originally planned to end in April 2008. The current estimated completion date is December 2008. The original budget was £1.23 million and the current forecast is £1.6 million.

DFID has also let a number of small IT related contracts. However, our central records do not distinguish IT contracts, so provision of details for these projects would incur disproportionate costs.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on the provision of funding for AIDS programmes in developing countries; how much of the funding agreed at Gleneagles in 2005 for this purpose has been provided; and if he will make a statement. [180914]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* DFID Ministers and senior officials have been holding discussions with G8 colleagues in preparation for the Hokkaido Toyako summit this year. Discussions on health have been wide-ranging, including on HIV and AIDS.

No specific funding commitment was made on AIDS in the communiqué from the Gleneagles G8 summit in 2005; instead the G8 leaders agreed to develop a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of as close as possible to universal access to treatment for all those who need it by 2010. At the Heiligendamm G8 summit of 2007, in the context of scaling up efforts to contribute towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 for all, and to developing and strengthening health systems, G8 Heads agreed to provide at least a projected US $60 billion over the coming years, and invited other donors to contribute. The G8 also made substantial commitments in the areas of preventing mother to child transmission, paediatric treatments for AIDS and in the areas of maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning.

Our analysis of data compiled by UNAIDS indicates that G8 countries committed around US $7.5 billion on AIDS over the last two years, 2005 and 2006. This represents 76 per cent. of global commitments to AIDS during the period.

Developing Countries: Companies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what measures have been put in place to monitor the impacts on global poverty of the projects undertaken by companies as part of the Prime Minister's Millennium Development Goals call to action *(a)* immediately and *(b)* over time; [180944]

(2) which companies have been invited to attend the meeting convened by the Government on the Millennium Development Goals call to action in April 2008; and what other discussions are intended to take place with companies on this issue; [180943]

(3) what discussions the Government have had with the companies involved in the Prime Minister's Millennium Development Goals call to action; [180942]

(4) what criteria the Government are using to assess the overall impact of the core business practices of the companies selected to join the Prime Minister's call to action on global poverty; [180941]

(5) what criteria were used to select the companies invited to join the Prime Minister's Millennium Development Goal call to action. [180940]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Call to Action seeks to engage the energies of the private sector, alongside governments and a range of other stakeholders such as NGOs, faith groups and cities in responding to the challenge of accelerating progress towards the MDGs. The Government have had a range of discussions both with the 21 companies that initially signed the Call to Action and with other potential supporters.

Companies who support the Call to Action will discuss their ideas for practical initiatives that could contribute to achieving the MDGs, at a meeting in London in May. Private sector investment is a key factor in accelerating economic growth, and hence achieving the MDGs, so such sharing of ideas is an important part of the Call to Action. It is hoped that the meeting will encourage wider interest and commitment from the private sector on the Call to Action.

The meeting is expected to take place in May. We are working with the UN to investigate what appropriate mechanism could be put in place to ensure private sector projects adhere to best practice in their efforts to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

Food Aid: Children

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1028W, to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green, on food aid: children, what the results were of the policy review of his Department's approach to child malnutrition that was part of his Department's health strategy launched in June 2007; and if he will publish the results of this policy review. [180829]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID is currently examining the Department's approach to improving child malnutrition which was highlighted as one of a number of important issues in the 2007 health strategy. A recent report issued by the Institute of Development Studies and Save the Children UK has highlighted DFID's strong track record in tackling the underlying causes of malnutrition but considers that we can do more. We are examining options where the Department can add value in improving the international research and evidence base and how we can expand policy links with country offices, such as India, where a major DFID programme to reduce levels of malnutrition is under way. We will publish the outcome on the DFID website in due course.

Malnutrition: Children

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with colleagues in the European Commission on efforts to tackle malnutrition among children in developing countries. [181996]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On several occasions I and other ministerial colleagues have discussed health related issues, of which malnutrition is an important part, with EC colleagues.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department works with developing country governments to fund countries' plans to scale up direct nutrition interventions, such as breast feeding support and promotion and vitamin A and zinc supplementation. [181997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID supports countries through a range of aid instruments to implement their national health plans. This includes specific support for direct nutrition interventions such as breast feeding support and micronutrient supplementation. It also funds substantial direct nutrition interventions in a number of countries such as India where under-nutrition is a major cause of the burden of disease.

DFID is funding a large randomised controlled trial on the impact of vitamin A supplementation for women of reproductive age on all-cause, pregnancy-related, perinatal and infant mortality in rural Ghana. The results from the trial, expected in 2009, will be important to understand the potential role of vitamin A in safe motherhood initiatives, and to provide explanations for the way vitamin A may impact on mortality.

DFID also supports the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Research in Bangladesh, whose research has helped Bangladesh become the first country to scale up zinc supplementation.

Malnutrition: Standards

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an indicator to measure malnutrition rates which form part of millennium development goal one are included in his Department's public service agreement. [181995]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government's public service agreement (PSA) to reduce international poverty is to accelerate progress towards all eight of the millennium development goals (MDG). Progress towards the MDGs is monitored annually through the collaborative efforts of agencies and organisations within the UN system which track the progress of 48 specific indicators. These include two indicators of malnutrition—the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age and the proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Nutrition

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department are nutritionists. [181998]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has 49 health advisers. Nutritionists, however, do not form a separate professional group and it would incur disproportionate cost to identify those with formal qualifications or a professional background in that specialised area.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints have been made to the UK's National Contact Point (NCP) on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's guidelines for multinational enterprises; how many NCP statements there have been that breaches of the guidelines have taken place; and if he will make a statement. [181733]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: 16 complaints have been brought to the UK National Contact Point since 2000. The NCP reorganisation in 2006 committed the NCP to state if breaches of the guidelines had occurred and whether a mediated solution was not possible. Seven complaints have been brought since the reorganisation. Six are under mediation or investigation and one was resolved outside the NCP process. The NCP will make it clear in its conclusion for any case whether or not the guidelines have been breached.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken by his Department, in co-operation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to raise awareness, amongst British companies which operate in conflict-affected countries, of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's guidelines for multinational enterprises and the risk awareness tool for multinational enterprises in weak governance zones; and if he will make a statement. [181734]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK National Contact Point (NCP) undertakes a number of activities to promote the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the OECD's Risk Awareness Tool. This includes use of the Government's corporate social responsibility website, the provision of materials to DFID offices and FCO missions to raise awareness amongst British business overseas, and attending meetings and speaking at conferences. In addition, FCO, BERR and DFID Ministers have written to a wide range of companies to raise awareness of the guidelines and state HMG's commitment to their effective implementation.

The NCP is organising for key embassies and DFID country offices to provide a link to the guidelines and risk awareness tool on their websites. The NCP has also agreed to provide £10,000 to the OECD to support a web portal to disseminate the risk awareness tool, and is sponsoring the upcoming Chatham House conference on corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department are working to promote the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's guidelines for multinational enterprises. [181743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK's National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD guidelines is currently managed by officials from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). BERR dedicate one full-time official to working on the NCP and are in the process of recruiting a second. The Foreign Office and DFID both currently contribute 20 per cent. of one official's time as core resource. From time to time additional staff resources are deployed as necessary.

UN Peacebuilding Commission

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in carrying out its functions. [181736]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Although the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was initially slow to start, over the last year it has begun to provide useful support to peacebuilding in Burundi and Sierra Leone, the first two countries on its agenda. "Consolidating the Peace?", an external NGO review in June 2007, found that the PBC had made a contribution to improved governance in Burundi by facilitating a government-civil society dialogue on peacebuilding, though it also outlined a number of challenges. I have placed a copy of this report in the Library of both Houses.

Over the next year, for the PBC to continue to be effective, the strategic frameworks for peacebuilding agreed with the Governments of Burundi and Sierra Leone will need to be translated into action on the ground, and a framework will need to be agreed and implemented in Guinea-Bissau, which was referred to the PBC in December 2007. With the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), DFID will continue to play an active role in the PBC.

Waitrose Foundation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has received representations from the John Lewis Partnership on the Waitrose Foundation in the last 12 months. [181468]

Mr. Thomas: DFID officials have been in contact with members of the John Lewis Partnership in the course of arranging and attending various meetings inside and outside Government over the last 24 months. Specific discussions on the Waitrose Foundation have not been held in the last 12 months.

HEALTH

Abortion: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Annual Abortion Statistics 2007 will be published; if he will place copies in the Vote Office on publication; and if he will make a statement. [182668]

Dawn Primarolo: 'Abortion Statistics. England and Wales: 2007' is scheduled for publication in June 2008. Copies will be placed in the Vote Office and the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments at hospitals in each primary care trust in Greater London have been re-graded since 1997. [179343]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: The information requested is not held centrally. Any changes to the provision of emergency care facilities including accident and emergency (A&E) departments, are matters for the local national health service (NHS).

Information on the number of A&E at hospitals in London is therefore only available from individual NHS trusts.

Alcoholic Drinks: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions there were to each London hospital *(a)* in total and *(b)* of patients aged under (i) 18 and (ii) 16 years in each year since 1997. [179347]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins), and on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W, to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley).

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female binge drinkers, according to the definition of binge drinking used in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. [178335]

Dawn Primarolo: In both 2005 and 2006, 23 per cent. of men and 15 per cent. of women drank more than twice the daily recommendations (three to four units per day for men, two to three units per day for women) on at least one day in the previous week, a measure of binge drinking, showing no change.

Autism

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve the services offered by his Department for people with autism and Asperger's syndrome in the next 10 years. [181561]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has set out in "Putting People First—a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care" an ambitious and radical programme for independent living for all adults with support needs, including people with autism and Asperger's syndrome. This shared vision articulates the common aims and values that will guide the transformation of adult social care. The goal is that everyone—including people with autism and Asperger's syndrome—will have the maximum choice, control and power over the support services they receive.

"Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families" similarly aims to integrate services to ensure that every disabled child can have the best start in life.

It is for local commissioners to ensure their populations benefit from improvements to the provision of care for people with autistic spectrum disorders and Aspergers syndrome, using the increasing resources this Government have made available for social care, based on their assessment of the needs of their local populations.

Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on inpatient costs, excluding those related to surgery, for cancer patients in 2006-07. [181396]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in the North East Region were screened by each local chlamydia screening programme in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [181549]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Number of chlamydia screens undertaken in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) by sex and programme area from April 2005 to March 2006

Programme area—Durham and Teeside	
Female	2,816
Male	1,677
Total	4,493

Note:

Northumberland Tyne and Wear programme area started screening after March 2006.

Number of chlamydia screens undertaken in the NCSP by sex and programme area from April 2006 to March 2007

Programme area	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Durham and Teeside	3,327	1,899	5,226
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	759	446	1,205

Notes:

1. The data from the NCSP are for chlamydia screens undertaken outside of genitor-urinary medicine clinics.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens undertaken and not the number of patients screened.
3. The data describe screens, not contacts of positives.
4. The data only include those aged < 25.
5. The data are specific to the following years 2005-06, 2006-07, as the NCSP follows the financial year.

Source:

The NCSP Data as of 24 January 2008.

Cholesterol: Medical Treatments

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the value for money for the NHS in the treatment of primary hypercholesterolaemia by use of cholesterol absorption inhibitors. [181465]

Dawn Primarolo: In November 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its guidance on ezetimibe for the treatment of primary (heterozygous-familial and non-familial) hypercholesterolaemia to the National Health Service. NICE recommended the use of ezetimibe having carried out a thorough review of the clinical and economic evidence. We have made no separate assessment.

Commercial Directorate: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the savings made by the Commercial Directorate since it was established. [182936]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: Data provided to the Independent Review of Public Sector Efficiency for activities overseen by the Department's Commercial Directorate indicate forecast savings of £3.06 billion at programme end at the end of 2007-08.

Community Nurses: Fuels

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the fuel allowance for NHS district nurses was last reviewed; how often it is reviewed; and what factors are taken into consideration when setting the allowance. [183066]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Staff Council has overall responsibility for Agenda for Change terms and conditions that cover NHS district nurses. NHS Employers issued guidance on 10 December 2007 recommending increases to certain rates of national mileage allowances. This followed discussions between employer and staff representatives on 29 November 2007. This is an interim action, pending the outcome of the review of NHS mileage allowances currently being conducted by the NHS Staff Council. The sub-group of the NHS Staff Council is currently reviewing mileage allowances and will report to the next meeting of the Council on 11 March 2008. Mileage allowance is reviewed as and when appropriate according to the needs of the NHS.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has been asked to provide a witness by the Inquiry Team for the Independent Public Inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [182624]

Dawn Primarolo: The right hon. the Lord Archer of Sandwell wrote to the former Secretary of State (Ms Hewitt) in February 2007 to invite the Department to give evidence at the independent inquiry.

Officials met with members of the inquiry team on 25 April 2007 and 19 September 2007.

Cystic Fibrosis

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the percentage increase of cystic fibrosis patients over the next *(a)* one, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 years; [182311]

(2) how many patients were diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in each of the last five years. [182312]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: Information on the number of people diagnosed with cystic fibrosis is not collected.

We have made no estimate of the percentage increase in the number of cystic fibrosis patients.

Department Board

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1007W, on the Department Board, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the NHS Management Board meeting of 25 September 2007. [180850]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Service Management Board discusses sensitive operational and policy development issues. Releasing the minutes to the public domain would prejudice the free and frank discussion of those issues, so it is not the Board's practice to release them.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 11, page 60 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, if he will break down his Department's losses on the disposal of fixed assets by asset disposed of. [178285]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table analyses the reported £236 million loss on the disposal of fixed assets shown in the Department's Resource Account for 2006-07.

£90.5 million has already been received as income plus £7 million made in profit to offset these losses, and a further £160.4 million is expected in the future.

Department's retained estate	*£*
Properties sold in 2006-07 to third parties	
31 Pathfields, Shere	44,612
42 and 44 Redan road, Aldershot	233,682
40 Princes road, Redhill	40,151
42 Princes road, Redhill	110,822
48 Park road, Leybourne, West Malling	66,831
57 Park road, Loughborough	131,111
9 Highbury Villas, Bristol	134,406
9 Princes road, Redhill	44,612
Okehampton Castle Hospital, Okehampton	1,662,990
Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton	4,868,317
Eastwood Park, Falfield	1,806,789
Land at Clarement Crescent, Whitley Bay	1,337
Oakleigh, Plymouth	83,636
Orchard Field, Virginia Water	35,598
Properties sold in previous years to third parties	
4 The Chambers, Chichester	114,818
10 Mayroyd Avenue, Surbiton	180,000
12 Brambletye Park road, Redhill	140,486
18 Netherne Lane, Coulsdon	164,944
19 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing	167,020
4 Brambletye Park road, Redhill	140,486
47 Ginsborough road, Epsom	118,000
54 Princes road, Redhill	145,276
7 and 8 Ambley Green, Camberley	693,875
8 Brambletye Park road, Redhill	140,486
Ascot House, Albion Place, Maidstone	124,880
Bexley Hospital (Part), Bexley	33,471,859
24 Castle street, Barnstaple	188,273
Central Boiler House and The Elms, Epsom	2,765,972
22 Connaught road, Hove	349,482
1 Westbourne road, Lancaster	5,506
Chepping House, Temple End, High Wycombe	111,660
Clinic, Longfellow Parade, Popley, Basingstoke	24,679
Dalston Ambulance Station, Dalston	211,744
Enfield Store, Enfield	2,274,167
Farm Cottage, Epsom	172,203
Glenside Hospital, Bristol	1,839,983
2 Junction road, Harrow	490,993
Holsworthy Health Centre and Ambulance Station, Holsworthy	211,156
Keepers Cottage, Epsom	345,747
Kelso Villa, Upper Bristol road, Bath	86,250
King Georges W. Wing, Ilford	5,913,362
St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, Birmingham	6,586,287
Overcliffe House, New road, Gravesend	105,075
Prh Land, Telford	942,351
Tarrant House, Milton Keynes	1,896,029
Tern House, Upper High Street, Reigate	131,548
Land at St. James Hospital, Portsmouth	50,189
Worcester Royal Infirmary, Castle Street, Worcester	170,552
Adjustments in respect of transfers to national health service trust or primary care trust(PCT) in previous years	
1 and 2 Oaten Hill Court, Canterbury	37,321
Badgers Croft, Gloucestershire	135,733
20 Barnstone Vale, Wakefield	126,477
Bedford Hospital North Wing, Bedford	11,158,215
Belmont Hospital (Part), Tiverton	1,015,068
Budock, Falmouth	1,449,684
Chase Farm Ambulance Station, Enfield	731,021
Land at De La Pole, Beverley	427,157
Darlington Memorial Hospital, Darlington	327,957
Elm Tree Farm, Stapleton, Bristol	738,462
Feltham Ambulance Station, Feltham	150,719
Harrow road Houses, Warlingham	278,932
Land R/O Alexandra Hospital, Redditch	146
Land at Leicester Frith, Leicester	223,113
Linwood, Haywards Heath	734,676
Moor Green Land, Southampton	5,911,150
Public Dispensary Building, Plymouth	40,004
Part St. Crispins, Northampton	2,565,802
St. Lawrences, Bodmin	2,230,283
St. Christopher's Hospital, Fareham	3,229,427
St. James Hospital, Portsmouth	39,502,000
The Firs, Epsom	382,399
The Kestrels, Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire	1,380,992
The Leaze, Okehampton	210,251
Unity Building Trinity road, Bradford	3,220,702
English Partnerships transfer	
337 Birmingham road, Bromsgrove	16,740
Land Hollywood Lodge Epsom	421,588
Beeches Hospital, Telford	419,543
Graylingwell, Chichester	14,754,986
Manor Kingsway, Derby	3,899,151
Land at Brinkley Grove, Colchester	223,109
Part Prudhoe Hospital, Prudhoe	3,205,715
Land at Chelmsley	220,811
Runwell Hospital, Wickford	6,191,581
St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping	1,877,515

Department's retained estate	£
Stone House Hospital, Dartford	5,565,472
Assets transferred to PCTs in 2006-07	
Dinnington Clinic, Dinnington	190,062
Land at Duchess Park, Bristol	301,088
Nelson *Health Centre*, North Shields	1,229,088
Part North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke	551,812
Old Manor Hospital, Salisbury	3,661,683
Part Park Prewett, Basingstoke	1,420,959
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary, North Shields	2,230,583
Revaluations and adjustments	23,771,474
Selling costs for retained estate, adjustments to 2005-06 disposal costs and audit adjustment	19,520,888
Other losses	
Eileen House and Hannibal House London vacation due to lease expiry (write-off of assets	19,782
Adjustments for information technology assets transferred to Information Centre for Health and Social Care	588,725
Total	236,230,278

Notes:

1. During 2006-07, a comprehensive review was undertaken of the Departments fixed asset register relating to land and buildings owned by the Secretary of State known as the 'retained estate'. As a result, adjustments were made and a proportion of the reported losses relate to the removal from the register of assets sold in previous years for which payment of £90.5 million had previously been received and accounted for.
2. The transfer of a portfolio of nearly one hundred properties to English Partnerships, agreed in 2005, includes provision for further payments to be made by them to the Department when they are sold in future years, these future payments have not been included in the accounts to date. As at 31 December 2007 English Partnerships estimate the value of these future payments to be £160.4 million.
3. A profit on disposal of assets in 2006-07 of £7 million was also reflected in the 2006-07 Resource Accounts.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167349]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department spent £248,181 on managing the Department's and national health service's corporate identities in 2006-07.

The two agencies that receive funding from the Department are The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA).

The MHRA has informed me that it does not employ any staff whose sole responsibility it is to manage its branding guidelines, nor does it currently retain consultants to advise on the development of corporate identity guidelines. The agency has produced a clear set of branding guidelines, which are available to all staff, and which all staff are expected to follow when producing printed or electronic items. Maintaining and advising on the guidelines is the responsibility of one member of staff within the Communications Division, alongside many other more substantial duties.

NHS PASA uses the NHS logo and corporate identity, in line with the published NHS identity guidelines, and has informed me that it manages its identity internally with no external spend.

Doctors: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the numbers of *(a)* doctors and *(b)* dentists who the NHS requires to be (i) recruited and (ii) trained in each of the next three years, and what percentage of (A) doctors and (B) dentists are expected to graduate from (1) medical schools and (2) dental schools in the UK in each of those years. [165560]

Ann Keen: The numbers of doctors and dentists who the national health service requires to be recruited each year is a matter for determination by local NHS organisations, as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community.

There is a planned intake of 6,194 students to train as doctors in each of the next three years. However the actual intake figure is usually slightly higher.

There is a planned intake of 899 students to train as dentists in each of the next three years.

It is estimated that in each of the three academic years from 2007-08 there is expected to be 5,681, 5,818 and 5,874 graduates respectively from medical schools while the number of graduates from English dental schools will increase from around 640 to 860.

Drugs: Testing

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions have been held with the Nigerian Government on the testing of Trovan in Nigeria by Pfizer; and if he will make a statement. [181915]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has not held any discussion with the Nigerian Government on the testing of Trovan in Nigeria by Pfizer.

The choice of country in which to conduct clinical trials on medicinal products is a decision entirely on the part of the pharmaceutical company wishing to perform the trials.

Electromagnetic Radiation

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking in relation to exposure from electromagnetic microwave radiation from mobile telephone masts and wireless broadband technology; [182167]

(2) if he will request the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection to undertake an

urgent review of guidance on exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electro magnetic fields in the frequency range up to 300Ghz, with particular reference to non-thermal health effects; [182168]

(3) what recent published medical research he has evaluated on the effect of telephone mast emissions on the health of nearby communities in the UK; [182169]

(4) if he will undertake an ecological study into the *health of people living in communities close to mobile* telephony masts. [182170]

Dawn Primarolo: Mobile telephones, base stations and wireless installations in this country are expected to comply with the electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The ICNIRP guidelines are incorporated into the European Recommendation on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields (EC/519/1999) adopted by European member states.

Measurements by Ofcom (www.ofcom.org.uk) have consistently shown base station compliance with the guidelines. Exposure from mobile telephone handsets is available on the manufacturer's website at www.mmfai.org/public/. The Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division (HPA-RPD) is undertaking a systematic programme of research into wireless local area networks (WLANs) and their use. In a recent announcement the HPA has said that WiFi and WLAN signals are very low power and the results so far show exposures are well within ICNIRP guidelines, which are available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/071012_wifi.htm

The HPA-RPD periodically reviews the scientific research into the potential health effects from electromagnetic fields. Its comprehensive 2004 review recommended the adoption of the ICNIRP guidelines in this country, but also acknowledged the need for further research (www.hpa.org.uk/publications/). A 2007 assessment on behalf of the European Commission also endorsed the ICNIRP public exposure guidelines, but similarly noted the paucity of scientific data in some areas:

www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/comm

The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme has supported a number of studies into the possible health effects of radio signals from mobile telephone technology. The studies of base stations were carried out in carefully controlled conditions as living close to base stations is not a reliable measure of overall exposure to radio signals. None of the research published in the 'MTHR 2007' report demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones or base stations. These studies and recommendations for further research are described on the MTHR website at www.mthr.org.uk.

Financially Challenged Trust Regime: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has powers to *(a)* write off and *(b)* sell the debt of NHS trusts within the Financially Challenged Trust Regime. [174472]

Mr. Bradshaw: The value of any loans or public dividend capital to national health service trusts are recorded in the balance sheet of the Department's accounts as an investment. Subject to HM Treasury approval the Secretary of State has the powers to write off the value of any investment held with an NHS trust. Such a write-off would constitute a loss to the Exchequer and would as a consequence be reported in the Department of Health Resource Accounts. In such cases, in advance of the remission of debt, HM Treasury presents a minute to the House of Commons to give the particulars of the remission and to explain the circumstances.

The Department currently has no plans to sell the debt of financially challenged trusts or to write it off. If the Department were to consider these options it would seek the advice of HM Treasury.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many GP surgeries are equipped to provide *(a)* blood tests, *(b)* electro cardiograms and *(c)* ultrasound scans; [180338]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of GP surgeries which will be equipped to provide *(a)* blood tests, *(b)* electro cardiograms and *(c)* ultrasound scans following the Prime Minister's announcement of 7 January 2008. [180339]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected centrally, but many general practitioner surgeries already offer blood tests and electrocardiograms, and some offer ultrasounds and other diagnostic tests. Primary care trusts should decide locally the best setting to provide these services to meet the needs of their patients.

General Practitioners: Pay

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average NHS pay of a *(a)* GP and *(b)* GP with special interest in dermatology in each year since 1997. [181290]

Ann Keen: Estimates of general practitioner (GP) pay used by the Department are set out in the following table:

Estimated GP net income 1997-98 to 2005-06 (including real terms):

Average net income of principal GMS GPs (NHS income only), GB, 1997-98 to 2002-03 Intended average net income

	Amount (£)	Increase over previous year (Percentage)	Percentage	Average income—real terms (£)	Increase over previous (Percentage)	Real terms growth (Percentage)
1996-97	44,483	—	—	58,820	—	—
1997-98	46,031	3.5	—	59,134	0.5	0
1998-99	48,037	4.4	—	60,189	1.8	2
1999-2000	52,606	9.5	—	64,608	7.3	9

Average net income of principal GMS GPs (NHS income only), GB, 1997-98 to 2002-03—Intended average net income

	Amount (£)	Increase over previous year (Percentage)	Percentage	Average income—real terms (£)	Increase over previous (Percentage)	Real terms growth (Percentage)
2000-01	54,219	3.1	—	65,657	1.6	11
2001-02	56,510	4.2	—	66,834	1.8	13
2002-03	61,618	9.0	34	70,663	5.7	19
2002-03[1]	64,443			73,903	10.6	25

[1] Represents GMS & PMS income.

Break in series

Estimated average net income for principal GPMS GPs, UK, 2003-04 to 2005-06 (all income sources)

	Amount (£)	Increase over previous year (Percentage)	Percentage	Income—real terms (2007-08) (£)	Over previous year (Percentage)	Real terms growth (Percentage)
2003-04	81,566	—	—	90,903		
2004-05	100,170	22.8		108,639	19.5	20
2005-06	110,004	9.8	35	116,839	7.5	29

Note:
Figures have been converted into real terms using 2007-08 GDP deflators (as at December 2007).
Source:
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

The Department does not hold information on the pay of GPs with a Special Interest (GPwSIs). There are no national remuneration rates for GPwSI services, as each service will differ depending on local circumstances.

Health Education: Publications

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS health advice booklets have been produced between July and December 2007; and what the (*a*) print run and (*b*) cost was in each case. [179173]

Mr. Bradshaw: During the period 1 July to 31 December 2007 the Department produced the public facing leaflets shown in the following table with quantities and costs also shown.

Job number	Job title	Print run	Print cost (£)	Production cost (£)	Total cost (£)	Delivery date
282221	How to use your hearing aid—large print (3P)	350	2,100	328.00	2,428	6 July 2007
282769	Punjabi/Bengali/Gujarati/Arabic—Hepatitis C: Your questions answered (2P)	10,000 x 4	1,390.00	1,541.00	2,931.00	20 July 2007
282775	FACE IT Hepatitis C leaflet dispenser—Are you at risk?	2,000	3,615.00	612.00	4,227.00	27 July 2007
282369	Urdu—Hepatitis C—Your questions answered (2P)	10,000	706.00	560.00	1,266.00	29 July 2007
282900	Who cares? Information and support for the carers of people with dementia—Amended Reprint	30,000	11,234.00	550.00	11,784	31 July 2007
282903	Keep Warm Keep Well—Alternative formats	Audio cassette: 3,000, Large Print 3,000, Braille 650	2,368.00	8,314.00	10,682	31 August 2007
282909	An easy guide direct payments for people learning difficulties—(33291 /7P)	10,000	16,766.00	480.00	17,246.00	31 August 2007
282926	If you knew about flu 2007-08—10 languages	168,500	9,500	430.00	9,930.00	6 August 2007
282778	If You Knew About Flu—English	2.2 million copies	39,150.00	820.00	39,527.20	31 July 2007
282739	Cannabis and your Mental Health	5,000	930.00	86.00	1,016.00	31 August 2007
282740	Frank Cannabis—too much too often?	5,000	1,250.00	258.00	1,508.00	31 August 2007
282942	Immunisation—alternative formats (Bradle)	60	869	328.00	1,197.00	6 September 2007
282163	Reducing the Risk of Cot Death—Amended Reprint	500,000	18,459.00	581.00	19,040	8 September 2007
282079	GP bulletin June 2007	20,500	865.00	5,479.39	6,344.39	7 June 2007
282882	A guide to receiving direct payments from your council—amended reprint	20,000	9,931.00	550.00	10,481.00	31 August 2007
282901	Who Cares? Braille/Audio	10	0	2,400.00	2,400.00	31 August 2007

Job number	Job title	Print run	Print cost (£)	Production cost (£)	Total cost (£)	Delivery date
282903	Keep Warm Keep Well—Alternative formats	7,150	4,268.00	6,714.00	10,982.00	31 August 2007
282938	Why your child's weight matters (September 2007)	300,000	9,800.00	1,616.00	11,416.00	30 September 2007
282940	Hib—Does your child need a Hib booster immunisation?	1,500,000	28,341.00	328.00	28,669.00	1 August 2007
282962	Keep warm, keep well 2007-08—English leaflet	2.2 million copies	163,000.00	1,720.00	164,720.00	30 September 2007
282964	Keep warm, keep well 2007-08—Large print	4,150	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	30 September 2007
282965	Keep warm, keep well 2007-08—Learning disabilities	17,000	4,460.00	466.00	4,926.00	30 September 2007
282966	Keep warm, keep well 2007-08—Audio CD	650	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	30 August 2007
282967	Keep warm, keep well 2007-08—Braille	2,000	10,160	822	10,982	30 August 2007
282997	How much is too much: over 25s leaflet—2nd Amended Reprint (DH July 2007)	130,000	6,646.00	328.00	6,974.00	30 September 2007
283006	How much is too much: under 25s leaflet—Amended reprint (DH July 2007)	130,000	8,622.00	328.00	8,950	30 September 2007
283244	General Information for those embarking on Hormone Therapy.	5,000	950.00	3,231.00	4,181.00	20 August 2007
283245	Transgender Experiences: Information for trans people and their families, health and social care professionals	5,000	794.00	[2]—	794.00	20 August 2007
283252	Meningitis leaflets	505,000	7,062.00	410.00	7,472.00	30 August 2007
283270	Transgender Experiences: Information for Trans people and their families, Health and Social care—New job number	5,000	794.00	2,316.00	3,110.00	20 August 2007
283283	Are you fully immunised against mumps? (269484)	200,000	1,244.00	328.00	1,572	20 August 2007
283286	TB, BCG Vaccine and your baby	505,000	8,593.00	492.00	9,085.00	20 August 2007
283488	Nursery Milk Guide—Reprint August 2007	1,050	730.00	258.00	988.00	31 August 2007
283490	Age 65 and over leaflet	50,000	1,590.00	328.00	1,918	28 August 2007
283491	Weaning—Reprint August 2007 (original version)	50,000	3,600.00	258.00	3,858.00	14 September 2007
283492	Bottle feeding—Reprint August 2007 (original version)	50,000	3,000.00	258.00	3,258.00	14 September 2007
283498	HS02 Healthy Start: Getting the Best from Healthy Start—Reprint August 2007	59,000	5,200.00	258.00	5,458.00	14 September 2007
283805	If You Knew About Flu—Arabic and Polish Reprints (DH September 2007)	20,000	3,440.00	246.00	3,686.00	14 September 2007
283652	Testicular cancer—Spot the symptoms early and reduce your risk	180,000	2,441.00	320.00	2,761	10 September 2007
283653	Bowel cancer screening—The facts (3p November 2007)	500,000	16,230.00	0	16,230.00	10 September 2007
285789	Hib—Does your child need a hib booster immunisation	350,000	11,070.00	246.00	11,316	24 September 2007
283845	Frank leaflet reprint	500,000	36,538	1,334.00	37,872.00	30 September 2007
283570	Ramadan Health Guide—A guide to Healthy fasting	200,000	15,900.00	3,890.00	19,790	30 September 2007
283490	Age 65 and over leaflet	50,000	1,590.00	328.00	1,918.00	30 September 2007
284016	Department of Health Folic Acid leaflet	500	1,115.00	5,072.00	6,187.00	1 November 2007
284199	Help is at Hand—reprint	1,500	2,895.00	1,077.00	3,972.00	31 October 2007
284269	Healthcare Abroad	289,000	6,311.00	3,473.00	9,784.00	4 December 2007
284320	5 A DAY—Easy read reprint October 2007	8,000	2,900.00	430.00	3,330.00	27 December 2007
284335	NHS Cervical Screening—The Facts (5P 272855)	3,475,800	59,537.64	492.00	60,029.64	20 December 2007
284395	Does your son or daughter have a LTC? Getting them vaccinated will protect your child from flu.	50,000	1,976.00	328.00	2,304.00	29 October 2007
284416	Pre-school immunisation—A guide to vaccinations for 3 to 5-year-olds Vaccine tracking version.	100,000	8,845.00	328.00	9,173.00	29 October 2007
284441	MMR The facts leaflets	100,000	3,437.00	328.00	3,765.00	30 November 2007
284485	A quick guide to childhood immunisation (leaflet project) 276722	10,000	711.00	328.00	1,039.00	13 November 2007
284537	A guide to immunisation for babies up to 13 months of age	350,000	34,200.00	328.00	34,528.00	26 November 2007

[1] Job numbers 282964, 282966 and 282967 were charged together.

[2] 283245 was cancelled prior to going to print.

Health in Pregnancy Grant

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from what budget the health in pregnancy grant will be funded. [181910]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The health in pregnancy grant will be funded from the consolidated fund. Further details are set out in paragraphs 545 and 546 of the explanatory notes to the Health and Social Care Bill 2007.

Health Services: West Sussex

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to inform the NHS bodies concerned that the terms of reference of any review of health services in north eastern West Sussex and eastern Surrey should not rule out the possibility of a new Horsham and Crawley Hospital. [182401]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for planning and commissioning local services, including reviews of local health services. South East Coast Strategic Health Authority has confirmed to officials that any review by local PCTs and other relevant national health service organisations will take account of all viable options.

Where it is agreed that the proposals to reconfigure services include any significant change to the way services are provided, local trusts have a duty to consult and involve the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs). OSCs take on the role of scrutiny of the NHS, both major changes and the ongoing operation and planning of services. Where the OSCs disagree with decisions made by NHS organisations then they have the power to refer the decision to the Secretary of State.

Health Visitors: Urban Areas

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to primary care trusts on the number of health visitors each should employ at each grade per head of the population in urban areas. [181901]

Ann Keen: No guidance has been issued. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of health visiting services.

Hearing Aids: Digital Technology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to collect data on waiting times for digital hearing aids. [181071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will collect information on waits for audiology treatment, including the fitting of hearing aids, from April 2008.

HIV Infection

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of HIV positive people in the United Kingdom; and what proportion of them are believed to have contracted HIV from *(a)* heterosexual and *(b)* homosexual acts. [181449]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest overall estimate is that 73,000 persons of all ages were living with HIV in the United Kingdom in 2006.

Estimates of the proportion of persons living with HIV in the UK whose infection is believed to have been acquired through heterosexual and homosexual or bisexual sex are only available for persons aged 15-59 due to there being limited data available for sexual behaviour in the general population. The available information is shown in the following table.

Estimated number of adults (15-59) living with HIV (includes both diagnosed and undiagnosed) in the UK for 2006

	Estimated number	*Proportion of total(%)*
Men infected through homosexual or bisexual sex	30,100	43.4
Men and women infected through heterosexual sex	36,400	52.4
Men and women infected through other routes	2,900	4.2
Total	69,400	100

Source:
The UK Collaborative Group for HIV and sexually transmitted infection surveillance (data published by the Health Protection Agency).

Homeopathy: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities on the funding of homeopathic treatments on the NHS; [182605]

(2) what recent submissions he has received on the withdrawal of funding from complementary and alternative treatments by *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts; [182607]

(3) what recent guidance his Department has provided to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts on the provision of funding for homeopathic treatments. [182939]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The "Our Health, our care, our say" White Paper makes it clear that primary care trusts (PCTs) will hold practices accountable for the use of public money under practice-based commissioning, and that PCTs will be expected to support practices that are innovative and entrepreneurial. This includes working with them to secure services that are needed locally, for example complementary or alternative therapies as a component of patient choice. However, any decisions on the provision of services are the responsibility of local national health service health care organisations, taking account of evidence on the safety and efficacy of the relevant treatments and the availability of suitably trained practitioners.

Hospitals: Closures

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* other NHS units have closed since 1997; what the cost of these closures has been; and how much has been received from the sale of goods and equipment following such closures. [181379]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals have come under special measures since May 2005; which consultancy firm was brought in for each case; and how much was spent on the consultancy in each case. [170626]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have assumed in this case that the term 'special measures' refers to the financially challenged trusts.

As identified in the Department's 2006-07 The (4th Quarter) report:

> "At the end of 2006-07 the Department of Health identified 17 national health service trusts that are deemed to be in financial 'special measures' because of the severity of the financial challenges that they face".

The following table outlines the cost and the consultancy company involved with each of the 17 financially challenged trusts.

Total costs of financially challenged trust review

Organisation	*Consultancy firm contracted*	*Cost to the NHS (£)*
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	83,112
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	KPMG	277,961
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	251,567
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	80,000
Bromley Hospitals National Health Service Trust	KPMG	96,884
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	KPMG	96,884
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	KPMG	96,884
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	KPMG	96,884
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	124,652
Barkering Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	161,394
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	65,022
Surrey and Sussex healthcare NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	212,109
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	96,897
North Bristol NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	183,108
Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust	KPMG	324,445
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	Ernst and Young	183,108
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	Ernst and Young and PriceWaterhouseCoopers	152,618
Total cost to the NHS for the financially challenged trust reviews across England		2,583,531

Hospitals: Vetting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on hospitals of the time taken to complete criminal records bureau checks on applicants for hospital jobs. [180738]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Staff recruitment is a matter for local national health service employers.

Human Embryo Experiments: Licensing

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which centres have had research licence applications refused by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; on what grounds such refusals were made in each case; on how many occasions amended applications were received following initial refusal; and in how many such cases licences were granted, giving the changes made to the re-application in each case. [181155]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that since 1999, the year from which a central record of licence committee decisions has been maintained, it has refused one application for a research licence.

In 2004 the Newcastle Fertility Centre at LIFE applied for a licence to use embryos to study mitochondrial DeoxyriboNucleic Acid (DNA) disorders. This application was considered by the HFEA's Research Licence Committee on 15 July 2004. The Committee refused to grant a licence on the grounds that the proposed research activities were prohibited under paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 2 to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. Representations against this decision by the centre were heard by the Research Licence Committee on 24 November 2004. The Committee decided to uphold its original decision and refused to grant a research licence. An appeal by the centre against this decision was heard by a HFEA Appeal Panel on 1 September 2005. After hearing arguments from both sides and obtaining independent scientific and legal advice, the Appeal Committee was satisfied that none of the activities in the proposed research involved altering the genetic structure of any cell while it formed part of an embryo. The Appeal Panel decided to grant a research licence authorising the use of human embryos to study the prevention of mitochondrial DNA disorders.

The numbers of applications refused by the HFEA's Research Licence Committee is limited because the HFEA works closely with research teams on the development of the project, prior to a licence application being submitted, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and the HFEA's code of practice. In this way, applications for projects that would not be considered suitable for licensing tend not to be submitted.

Where a project would, in principle, be suitable to be licensed but insufficient information has been submitted to the Licence Committee, or the Committee is of the view that an aspect of the project needs to be reconsidered, it is usual practice for the Committee not to reject the application but to ask the applicant to submit further information or undertake changes to the specifications of the project, for reconsideration at a later date.

Incontinence

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department has received since the deadline for comments on the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff from *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* others; and whether the views expressed in those letters will be taken into account when he considers the options for Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances - and related services - to Primary Care. [181986][1]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The following table summarises the number of letters the Department has received since 28 December 2007 regarding the review of part IX of the Drug Tariff. The majority of correspondence from right hon. and hon. Members enclosed letters from constituents.

Type	*Number received after 28 December*
MP	135
Other	229
Total	364

As the review is ongoing, all comments will be considered.

However, any correspondence dated after 28 December 2007 will not be counted among the responses to the three-month consultation ‘Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised Proposals' as the closing date was 28 December 2007.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent *(a)* in total, *(b)* in civil servant time and *(c)* on private consultants in relation to the consultation on NHS provision of stoma and incontinence appliances since its inception in October 2005. [178701]

Dawn Primarolo: The review of the arrangements under Part IX of the drug tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services in primary care is addressing £487 million per annum of national health service expenditure.

Costs for civil servants' time is not available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

To date, £2.2 million has been spent on the Part IX review with contractors. This covers both Phase 1—a review of arrangements relating to dressings and chemical reagents which delivered £24 million per annum in savings to primary care—and Phase 2—stoma and incontinence—which is ongoing.

Influenza

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu have been bought by each Government Department for use by its staff in the event of an influenza pandemic. [167328]

Dawn Primarolo: Government Departments with a significant overseas presence, such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development, have bought Tamiflu for its members of staff and their dependents overseas. Approximately 48,000 treatment courses are available for use in the event of a pandemic. However, no Home Civil Service Departments have bought Tamiflu for the use of their staff.

Meat Hygiene Service: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the operating budget of the Meat Hygiene Service *(a)* is in 2007-08 and *(b)* was in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [181445]

Dawn Primarolo: The gross expenditure of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is as follows:

		£ million
	Forecast	*Actual*
2007-08	[1]88.1	—
2004-05	—	83.7
2005-06	—	88.2
2006-07	—	91.3

[1] Excluding transformation costs.

Note:

The MHS is currently implementing a significant transformation programme in order to carry out its role at less cost, in line with Food Standard Agency's review of the delivery of official controls.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the operating budget for the Meat Hygiene Service is in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* each region in 2007-08. [181446]

Dawn Primarolo: The gross expenditure of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is not budgeted by country. Analysis is however undertaken following the finalisation of the annual accounts to show gross expenditure by country. For 2006-07 this was:

	Gross expenditure (£ million)
England	70
Wales	12
Scotland	9

The MHS gross expenditure budgets by region for 2007-08 are:

	Gross expenditure (£ million)
North	18
Central	22
South and West	15
Wales[1]	10
Scotland[2]	10

[1] The MHS Wales region includes parts of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

[2] The MHS Scotland region includes part of Cumbria.

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[1] *[Official Report, 17 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 3MC.]*

The gross expenditure budget for the corporate overhead for 2007-08 is £14 million.

Midwives: Training

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places there were in each English region in the academic year 2007-08. [182705]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table, which shows the planned number of midwifery training places for each strategic health authority (SHA) for the academic year 2007-08.

Training places academic year 2006-07

	Midwifery degree	Diploma	18 month diploma	Total
North East HSA	66	0	20	86
North West HSA	194	0	52	246
Yorkshire and the Humber HSA	162	23	0	185
East Midlands HSA	38	112	14	164
West Midlands HSA	204	0	45	249
East of England HSA	0	215	0	215
London HSA	66	187	201	454
South East Coast HSA	96	65	38	199
South Central HSA	114	29	28	171
South West HSA	119	20	0	139
England total	1,059	651	398	2,108

National User Forum on Mental Health

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the work of the National User Forum on mental health. [179510]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National User Forum on Mental Health, announced in 2000, was to be run by service users appointed within the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE). The national clinical director for Mental Health, Louis Appleby, held initial meetings with user groups which established their preference to be a part of integrated mental health reform, and laid out a programme of work linking in to other NIMHE initiatives.

The NIMHE has been working for some time to strengthen its involvement of service users and carers in its work. NIMHE commissioned a report from Health and Social Care Advisory Service to review service user and carer involvement in NIMHE. The resultant 'Making a Real Difference' (MARD) report (April 2005) made 20 recommendations to take forward service user and carer involvement in NIMHE. The main focus of the MARD Programme was in strengthening NIMHE's own service user and carer involvement, ensuring good levels of involvement at national level, in its national programmes and regional work.

User groups have been involved in many individual elements of mental health policy, including legislation and, currently, the development of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

As we consider what is to replace the national service framework for mental health from 2009, we shall include service users in discussions and the resultant consensus.

Neurological Conditions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the National Service Framework for long term neurological conditions; and what the responsibilities of primary care trusts are with regard to the Framework. [181496]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions has a 10 year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for primary care trusts to set the pace of change locally to take account of local priorities and needs. The NSF good practice guide demonstrates that that a number of organisations have successfully addressed aspects of service delivery outlined in the NSF.

NHS: Allowances

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions have taken place on introducing an interim adjustment in mileage allowances payable to NHS staff before the national review group reports. [180494]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* NHS employers issued guidance on 10 December recommending increases to certain rates of national mileage allowances. This followed discussions between employer and staff representatives on 29 November. This is interim action, pending the outcome of the review of national health service mileage allowances being conducted by the NHS Staff Council.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the review group investigating mileage allowances payable to staff in the NHS will report. [180495]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The sub-group of the national health service staff council which is reviewing mileage allowances will report to the meeting of the council on 11 March.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the availability of lactose-free medication; and what his Department's policy is on lactose-free prescribable pharmaceuticals. [177634]

Dawn Primarolo: The availability of lactose-free medication is a matter for the pharmaceutical industry. The majority of people with lactose intolerance are able to tolerate small amounts of lactose in their diet and the relatively small amounts that might be present in medicines. Medicines containing lactose must have that ingredient declared on the labelling and the information leaflet in the pack should recommend that the patient contact their doctor before taking such a medicine if they have been told they have an intolerance to some sugars.

NHS: Film

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Connecting for Health video on the Summary Care Record cost to make; how many actors were involved in the making of the film; and which parts each played. [181829]

Mr. Bradshaw: The film, 'The Summary Care Record—the story so far' cost £32,000 to make. It was made in response to requests from national health service staff for a tool to support local clinical engagement work describing the purpose and benefits of summary care records from the standpoint of real life experience.

The film did not use actors. All those interviewed are real NHS staff or patients. Using genuine NHS staff and patients to talk from their own experience was seen as a crucial component contributing to the credibility and usefulness of the film.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Ernst and Young report on collaborative procurement hubs to be published. [182938]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 127W.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances he may suspend *(a)* a chairman and *(b)* a non-executive director of an NHS (i) trust or (ii) primary care trust using powers under sections 66 and 67(3) of the National Health Service Act 2006. [178627]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State for Health can suspend a chairman or director of a national health service trust or a chairman or member of a primary care trust, by using powers under sections 66 and 67(3) of the National Health Service Act 2006 to make an intervention order.

An intervention order under section 66 may be made if the Secretary of State considers that the trust is not performing one or more of its functions adequately or at all, or that there are significant failings in the way it is being run, and the Secretary of State is satisfied that it is appropriate for him to intervene under section 66.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory provisions provide him with powers to suspend an *(a)* chairman and *(b)* non-executive director of an NHS (i) trust or (ii) primary care trust other than those under sections 66 and 67(3) of the National Health Service Act 2006. [178628]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State has power to make regulations to provide for the tenure of office of the chairman and other members of a primary care trust (PCT), including the circumstances in which they cease to hold office or may be removed or suspended from office. The powers are contained in the National Health Service Act 2006, schedule 3, paragraph 4(l)(a).

The Secretary of State has power to make similar regulations in respect of the chairman and directors of an NHS trust, under the National Health Service Act 2006, schedule 4, paragraph 4(l)(a).

The current regulations do not generally provide power to suspend the chairman or non-officer members of PCTs, or the chairman or non-executive directors of any NHS trusts.

Suspension is required however in cases where the PCT or NHS trust concerned has been designated a care trust under section 77 of that Act, and the chairman or non-executive is a member of a local authority who has been suspended from being a member of that authority by virtue of a decision of a case tribunal under the Local Government Act 2000.

The relevant provision for suspension in such cases is (for PCTs), regulation 4(11) of the Primary Care Trusts (Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements) Regulations 2000. For NHS trusts the relevant provision is regulation 9(11) of the National Health Service Trusts (Membership and Procedure) Regulations 1990.

Nutrition

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects of not eating five portions of fruit and vegetables each day. [181023]

Dawn Primarolo: The recommendation to eat at least five portions a day is supported by the World Health Organisation, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and most leading cancer and heart disease organisations.

In July 2000 the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and policy carried out an assessment of the available evidence on the benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption and concluded that higher intakes of fruit and vegetables could help to reduce the risk some cancers and cardio-vascular diseases. The Department has not commissioned any further research in this area.

Obesity: Eastern Region

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn NHS Trust, *(b)* Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust, *(c)* Hitchingbrooke Health Care Trust and *(d)* Cambridge University NHS Foundation Trust has spent in the last year on specialist lifting equipment and beds for obese people. [182648]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission services locally.

Obesity: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department commissioned on child obesity in the North East and its implications for the future health of people in the region in each of the last five years. [18154

Dawn Primarolo: The prevalence of childhood obesity is measured in the North East through the National Child Measurement Programme. This is a national programme through which the height and weight of children in reception (four and five-year-olds) and year six (ten and eleven-year-olds) throughout the country are measured. These data are used to inform local planning and commissioning of services for children as well as providing population-level surveillance data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

Assessment of the potential health impact will be made through a range of national studies. In particular, the Department has established the National Child Measurement Programme (which will report North East figures in 2008) as well as the Health Survey for England to measure obesity levels throughout England.

The North East strategic health authority reports that there are a number of actions being taken forward locally to help reduce overweight and obesity in the North East. These include projects encouraging healthier eating, promoting exercise and weight management and offering support through a range of facilities, such as the Healthworks healthy living resource centre in Easington, which brings together a range of services under one roof. The aim of these are to ensure that important messages about diet, physical activity and behavioural changes are consistent, high quality and that interventions are based in primary care settings across the North East.

Obesity: Surgery

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* offer and *(b)* do not offer bariatric surgery. [182650]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on which primary care trusts have commissioned bariatric surgery are not collected centrally.

Patient Choice Schemes: Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Choose and Book supports Safari web browsers. [181877]

Mr. Bradshaw: The patient-facing feature of Choose and Book, the patient web application, has now been certified compatible with all versions of Internet Explorer, and the latest version of Firefox, which together are used by of around 95 per cent. of internet users in the United Kingdom.

Because of the number of different browser types and versions potentially available to internet users, priority has been given to certification of the application against the most popular browsers in the first instance. The Safari browser is used by only a small percentage of UK internet users and is not yet compatible but is expected to become compatible in due course.

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1193-4W, on pharmacy, whether the £411 million excess for 2005-06 and the £558 million excess for 2006-07 represent excesses over the £500 million allowance for pharmacy contractors under the community pharmacy contractual framework. [183202]

Dawn Primarolo: The £500 million allowance for pharmacy contractors is for margins earned on all drugs. There is no separate allowance for generic drugs. The excess margins above the £500 million for all drugs were £300 million in 2005-06 and £511 million in 2006-07.

Plastic Surgery: Standards

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislation governs the standards of those performing aesthetic treatments, with particular reference to derma fillers. [181721]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Standards Act 2000 and the Private and Voluntary Healthcare (England) Regulations 2001 cover cosmetic surgery and other listed services as set out in s2(7) of that Act. Any prescription-only medicines used in any treatment will be covered by the Medicines Act 1968. Most dermal fillers used in the United Kingdom are regulated as medical devices under the Medical Devices Regulations 2002.

In addition, any clinical professionals involved in surgical or non-surgical cosmetic treatments should adhere to the codes of professional conduct set out by their regulatory bodies.

Primary Care Trusts: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who has the power to *(a)* appoint and *(b)* dismiss chief executives of primary care trusts. [181694]

Ann Keen: The appointment and dismissal of primary care trusts' (PCTs) chief executives is a matter for PCTs, as independent employers, acting in accordance with the chief executive's employment contract and general employment law.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 33b, p. 79 of his Department's resource accounts 2006-07, if he will provide a breakdown by private finance initiative scheme of compensation payments made by his Department on behalf of NHS private finance initiative schemes that were cancelled or deferred. [178289]

Mr. Bradshaw: The compensation sum of £7,339,280 referred to at paragraph 33(b) page 79 of the Department's 2006-07 resource accounts is in respect of payments to the preferred bidder consortium and their advisers for the Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust private finance initiative scheme following its cancellation in June 2006.

Prozac: Expenditure

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure of the NHS on Prozac was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [181441]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Prozac is the trade name of the version of the antidepressant drug Fluoxetine marketed by Lilly. Other versions are available.

In the 12 months—October 2006 to September 2007 (the latest 12 months available)—there were 38,679 prescription items dispensed in the community for Prozac at a net ingredient cost of £897,616. In addition there were 4,938,722 prescriptions for generic Fluoxetine or other branded versions of the drug dispensed at a cost of £17,915,210.

The figures for the cost of Prozac use in hospitals are not available.

South Central Ambulance Primary Care Trust

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his strategy is for improving the performance of South Central Ambulance Primary Care Trust. [182379]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs), as the local headquarters of the national health service, and primary care trusts, as commissioners, to ensure that strategies for improving performance are delivered by ambulance trusts.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this matter directly with the chief executive of South Central SHA.

More generally, the Department, via the Recovery and Support Unit, discusses performance with SHAs to ensure that SHAs work with local organisations to address performance issues, and if appropriate with support from the National Ambulance Performance Implementation Lead.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 30 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control: Planning Permission

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to amend the Environment Agency's powers to influence planning decisions relating to sites at risk of flooding. [181107]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

There are no proposals to amend the Environment Agency's powers to influence planning decisions on sites at risk of flooding. On 1 October 2006 we made the agency a statutory consultee for development proposals in flood risk areas[1]. On 1 January 2007 we introduced a planning direction[2], which prohibits a local authority from granting permission for major development in a flood risk area, to which the agency maintains an objection, without first sending details to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to consider whether it should be called-in for decision. We believe that these two measures provide the agency with sufficient powers to influence planning decisions on sites at risk of flooding. We will keep under review how these arrangements are working.

[1] The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (No.2) (England) Order 2006.

[2] The Town and Country Planning (Flooding) (England) Direction 2007.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the Government's waste minimisation efforts in light of the recent evidence given by his Department's Director of Sustainable Consumption to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee. [176547]

Joan Ruddock: Waste prevention and reuse are key parts of DEFRA's Waste Strategy for England 2007. The Government are committed to achieving the target in the Strategy of reducing household waste not re-used, recycled or composted from over 22.2 million tonnes in 2000 by 29 per cent. to 15.8 million tonnes in 2010 with an aspiration to reduce it to 12.2 million tonnes in 2020—a reduction of 45 per cent. This is a challenging target, but we are confident that it can be met through measures planned and already in place.

In 2004-05 we had the first ever fall in the overall amount of municipal waste created. In the two years since then, we have seen only a 0.5 per cent. growth—far lower than historic trends.

Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much hazardous waste was produced in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by primary source; and if he will make a statement. [183099]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* The table shown gives the tonnages of hazardous waste produced in the UK in 2006 (the most recent period for which figures are available), broken down by primary source.

This information is available from the Environment Agency's website using the free online 'hazardous waste interrogator' web-tool.

Source	*Tonnage*
Mining and Minerals	38,281
Agricultural and Food Production	1,350
Wood and Paper Production	3,790
Leather and Textile Production	2,551
Petrol, Gas and Coal Refining/Treatment	27,368
Inorganic Chemical Processes	128,767
Organic Chemical Processes	2,093,000
MFSU Paints, Varnish, Adhesive and Inks	117,886
Photographic Industry	20,495
Thermal Process Waste (inorganic)	156,189
Metal Treatment and Coating Processes	134,325
Shaping/Treatment of Metals and Plastics	72,784
Oil and Oil/Water Mixtures	879,961
Solvents	24,035
Packaging, Cloths, Filter materials	61,108
Not otherwise specified	557,287
C and D Waste and Asbestos	705,307
Healthcare	142,305
Waste/Water Treatment and Water Industry	654,939
Municipal and Similar Commercial Wastes	215,339
Unclassified	—
Total	6,037,068

WALES

Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* first-class and *(b)* other flights he has taken since 28 June 2007; and on each occasion (i) how many staff travelled with him and (ii) what the cost of the travel was. [182881]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No first-class flights have been taken by the Secretary of State since 28 June 2007.

In November 2007 standard return flights were taken from Cardiff to Belfast, at a total cost of £254.02. One official accompanied the Secretary of State.

Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [182940]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme.

As a small Department we have taken full advantage of the Carbon Trust's small and medium sized Business Toolkit. This resulted in a full Carbon Trust survey and follow up action plan in 2006. All actions points raised have been implemented together

with the introduction of a robust recycling programme.

My Department offset 307.70 tonnes of emissions, through PURE, the Clean Planet Trust, in 2006-07.

The Wales Office is currently establishing a sustainable development strategy to further assist in further reducing emissions.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182504]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In each year since it's creation in July 1999, the Wales Office has employed three press and communications officers.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [182905]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is currently establishing a sustainable development strategy to ensure targets are met.

We already have a robust recycling programme for white paper, mixed paper, cans, glass, plastic, cardboard and shredding. This amounts to 5,913 kgs from April to September 2007.

A system is being implemented to record the weight of rubbish disposed of by the office, to enable the percentage recycled to be calculated. This will enable us to determine whether the target is being met, or whether more needs to be done to ensure that it is.

Official Engagements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many days he spent in Wales on official business in each of the last 12 months; [182865]

(2) what his official engagements were in December 2007. [182866]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government estate targets to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31st March 2008. [182904]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office receives 100 per cent. of its electricity from renewables.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Aldershot

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the estimated cost of security is at *(a)* Olympic Village and *(b)* Army Training Camp for the GB team at Aldershot (i) prior to the 2012 Games and (ii) during the Games; and from what budget this is charged. [181092]

Tessa Jowell: The Home Secretary is responsible for a safe and secure London 2012 Games. The multi-agency Olympic Security Directorate, headed by the Security Coordinator AC Ghaffur, is coordinating national cross-agency operational safety and security planning.

Security of the Olympic Village during the construction period, including the costs, is the responsibility of the private sector developer and is being fully co-ordinated within the overall security approach. The private sector developer's security costs are a matter for them.

During the operational period of the games LOCOG, working with the Olympic Security Directorate on planning, is responsible for ensuring security of the village and meeting the core costs of delivering this out of its £2 billion privately funded budget.

Members of the Great Britain London 2012 squad, and their support staff, based at Aldershot Garrison in the run-up to the Games, will benefit from the high levels of security inherent in a military site. Additional on-site security measures will be met by the British Olympic Association. The scale of charges that the BOA will pay is a matter for them.

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on consultants in preparation for the 2012 Olympics. [180166]

Tessa Jowell: To date the total cost incurred for consultants employed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in preparation for the 2012 Olympics is £2,400,115. The total expenditure on consultants by the former Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU) is £1,167,447. The functions of OPSU were transferred to the DCMS on 14 September 2007.

In my previous answer to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent, (Hugh Robertson) dated 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, I stated that £50,494,000 had been spent on consultancies providing core services by the Olympic Delivery Authority in 2006-07. In the financial year 2007-08, to date, a further £94,272,290 has been spent on similar work, central to the delivery of facilities and infrastructure for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This reflects the increasing pace of the project.

Around £100 million of the total figure relates to contracts with three companies (EDAW, Ove Arup and Atkins) which have been integral in the start-up and development of the ODA, and in delivering the key milestones around planning and preparing the park to enable the programme to be on track and hitting milestones. They have therefore been important partners in the delivery programme.

All ODA expenditure on consultants is within the baseline budget announced in December 2007. This budget was subject to a process of rigorous review to ensure that it was fully aligned with scope, programme and risks, and is subject to monthly monitoring by the Government Olympic Executive.

Olympic Games 2012: Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the 10 highest salaries are of staff working on preparations for the 2012 Olympics whose salaries are paid from the public purse. [180307]

Tessa Jowell: The following table shows the 2007-08 salaries of the 10 highest paid staff working directly on the preparations for the 2012 Olympics in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and paid from the public purse. It does not include staff employed by the ODA's Delivery Partner, and the ODA's contractors.

Position/organisation	[1]*Salary (£)*
Chief Executive, ODA	372,600
Director of Construction, ODA	258,750
Director of Finance and Corporate Services, ODA	253,624
Director General, Government Olympic Executive	220,000
Director of Design and Regeneration, ODA	207,000
Director of Transport, ODA	207,000
Director of Property, ODA	207,000
Director of Infrastructure and Utilities, ODA	207,000
Director of Build and Finance, Government Olympic Executive	180,000
Director of Communications, ODA	175,950

[1] The figures are for basic salary only, and do not include for any performance related bonuses, taxable benefits and pension contributions. These additional benefits will be calculated at the financial year-end and detailed in the annual reports and accounts of the Department and the ODA which are laid before the House.

Olympics 2012

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the timetable is for a decision on whether the Lee Valley Regional Parking Authority will take over as the legacy vehicle for the Olympics. [176501]

Tessa Jowell: Decisions on the long-term ownership and management arrangements for the Olympic Park will be taken during 2008. In the meantime, the London Development Agency is acting as interim legacy client for the Park.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crimes of Violence: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons have been arrested in connection with the incident in which two young men were publicly paraded with placards on the Shankill road, Belfast, on 11 January 2008; and what assessment he has made of whether there was a paramilitary involvement in that incident. [182412]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI that no persons have as yet been arrested in connection with this incident and inquiries into this matter continue. An assessment as to the possibility of paramilitary involvement is still being considered. All acts of criminality should be dealt with through the proper authorities and the criminal justice system and I urge anyone with information in relation to this incident to contact the PSNI.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Emergency Calls

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time taken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each district command unit was to respond to *(a)* emergency and *(b)* routine calls from members of the public in each of the last five years. [180862]

Paul Goggins: As the PSNI does not record average response times for emergency and non-emergency calls for each DCU, the information requested is not available.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board target is for the PSNI to record the percentage of emergency calls responded to within a 15 minute baseline target.

As at the 18 January 2008 for the financial year to date, the number of emergency response calls where arrival time was available, responded to within 15 minutes, was 79.5 per cent.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is committed to working with the PSNI to improve response times to emergency calls—the 2007-10 Policing Plan contains a target to increase the percentage of emergency calls responded to within 15 minutes by 2 per cent. points.

An important aspect of improving performance in this area will be the development of an automated system utilising the Barracuda Radio System to streamline the recording of arrival on site for both emergency and non-emergency calls and work is currently ongoing.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the fiscal deficit in Northern Ireland was in each of the last three years for which figures are available; what it is projected to be for the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [182457]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Finance and Personnel published their Draft Regional Economic Strategy for Northern Ireland in January 2007. That document contains estimates of the fiscal deficit for Northern Ireland and can be found at:

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/res_final_draft_january_2007.pdf

No centrally collated data is available for the fiscal balances for Northern Ireland.

Rape

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will provide a break-down by age of persons convicted of rape or attempted rape in Northern Ireland in the last 10 years. [180632]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number convicted of rape or attempted rape broken down by age group.

Data cover the calendar years 1996 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number convicted of rape or attempted rape by age group 1996-2005

	Age group								
	10-17	*18-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60 and over*	*Missing*[1]	*Total*
1996	0	3	2	1	4	4	0	1	15
1997	0	2	3	9	4	3	0	0	21
1998	1	2	2	5	4	3	1	0	18
1999	0	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	8
2000	0	0	1	2	4	2	1	0	10
2001	0	3	1	4	3	5	1	0	17
2002	0	2	2	3	2	1	0	0	10
2003	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	0	10
2004	0	1	3	3	3	5	3	0	18
2005	1	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	8

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom age information is not available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181353]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 86 people in my Department are currently issued with personal digital assistant devices. Of these, 36 are female and 50 are male. We do not hold this information broken down by year.

Of the 86 people issued with personal digital devices, 14 are based in the Government Olympic Executive, of which five are female and nine are male.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The travel and subsistence costs within and outside UK incurred by the Department's officials in each of the last 10 years is set out in the table.

The costs are expressed as a percentage of the Department's gross administration cost.

Financial year	*Officials' UK travel and subsistence costs (£)*	*Percentage of gross administration cost*	*Officials' overseas travel and subsistence costs (£)*	*Percentage of gross administration cost*
2006-07	193,620.21	0.37	297,832.07	0.57
2005-06	293,203.28	0.60	287,546.56	0.58
2004-05	166,500.58	0.39	279,710.59	0.66
2003-04	194,638.95	0.47	235,210.16	0.57
2002-03	248,802.18	0.68	195,442.41	0.54
2001-02	246,203.14	0.42	129,164.75	0.22
2000-01	147,239.27	0.37	188,337.76	0.48
1999-2000	141,325.38	0.36	193,742.97	0.50
1998-99	80,852.42	0.23	151,307.28	0.43
1997-98	67,874.95	0.32	175,061.96	0.82

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181610]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's management information systems does not routinely collect information about the number of overseas visits and countries visited by officials. The data relating to these can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The overseas travel and subsistence costs incurred by the Department's officials in each of the last 10 years is set out in the table.

Financial year	*Officials' overseas travel and subsistence costs (£)*
2006-07	297,832.07
2005-06	287,546.56
2004-05	279,710.59
2003-04	235,210.16
2002-03	195,442.41
2001-02	129,164.75
2000-01	188,337.76
1999-2000	193,742.97
1998-99	151,307.28
1997-98	175,061.96

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182836]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no cases of bullying reported in DCMS or The Royal Parks Agency within the last 12 months.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of licensed premises in England and Wales that have a terminal hour, on at least one day of the week, after 11 pm. [176713]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold detailed information on the licensed hours of the 177,200 licences and certificates that were in force in England and Wales on 31 March 2007. The actual closing times of a premises may, in any case, be earlier than the terminal hours granted on its licence. Data from the on-licensed trade suggest that 60 per cent. of outlets stop selling alcohol by 11 pm and that, on average across all on-licensed premises, closing times have increased by approximately 20 minutes since the Licensing Act 2003 came into effect.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payment is being made to Fast Track for the contract to help raise £100 million from the private sector to help fund athletes in the run up to the 2012 Olympics in London. [183120]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department and UK Sport are currently in discussion with Fast Track about the contractual arrangements for the project to raise £100 million from the private sector.

We do not expect that public funding will be used to pay for this project.

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1167, on planning permission: playing fields, what the reasons were for the figures for 2005-06 not being published in 2007 as referred to in his answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1296 on playing fields; and when he expects the figures to be published for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [182699]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: Sport England will be providing more extensive and revised information about planning applications for 2005-06 and retrospectively (2003-04 and 2004-05). The figures were not fully validated and finalised in time for publication last year as originally intended. We intend to publish these figures shortly. It is currently expected that figures for 2006-07 will be published later in the year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) many overseas visits were made by House of Commons staff in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and what the cost of the visits was in each year; [181457]

(2) how much was spent on travel by officials of the House *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the House's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181535]

Nick Harvey: House of Commons staff travel within the UK and abroad chiefly when accompanying groups of Members on select committee visits, on delegations to international assemblies, on bilateral visits or for conferences. The cost of the staff element of official travel with Members cannot be disaggregated from the total, which amounted to some £2.65 million for UK and overseas visits in 2006-07. There have also been a small number of overseas visits by individual officials, mainly for the purpose of strengthening democratic institutions in other countries.

SCOTLAND

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [180579]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is an integral part of the IT systems of the Scottish Executive and does not undertake separate IT projects.

Power Stations

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of output Hunterston B Power Station was producing at the end of December 2007. [182661]

David Cairns: Information on individual power station output is not held in the form requested.

Hunterston B Power Station has an installed capacity of 1190 MW. According to publicly available information from its operators, British Energy, the station is currently operating at a reduced level of 70 per cent. of full output, but on average generates sufficient electricity to supply almost half the households in Scotland.

The recent announcement that its life will be extended by five years to at least 2016 is very welcome, given its continued importance to Scotland's energy supply mix.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Military Decorations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the criteria are for award of the *(a)* ISAF medal and *(b)* Operational Service Medal for Afghanistan; for what reasons the ISAF medal may not be worn; and if he will make a statement. [180909]

Derek Twigg: The Operational Service Medal (OSM)—Afghanistan was instituted to recognise service in Afghanistan and in support of operations in that country from 11 September 2001. The qualifying criteria were initially published in Command Paper 5939 in September 2003 and amended in Command Paper 6935 in October 2006. Copies were placed in the Library of the House.

Subsequently, NATO offered their ISAF medal to coalition troops taking part in NATO operations in Afghanistan from 1 June 2003. Qualification for the medal is completion of at least 30 days continuous or accumulated service.

One of the key principles laid down by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is that permission will not be given for UK citizens to accept a foreign award if they have received, or are expected to receive, a UK award for the same service.

As the NATO medal now covers the same service as the national OSM—Afghanistan and thereby contravenes the 'double medalling' rule, UK personnel who are given the medal may retain it, but may not wear it.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to send the six Merlin helicopters recently procured from Denmark to Afghanistan. [174486]

Des Browne: The six Danish Merlin helicopters will increase the operational capability that can be delivered by our Merlin fleet. Merlin helicopters are currently deployed in Iraq. We are currently examining the balance of our helicopter force levels across theatres, including the deployment of Merlin helicopters to Afghanistan, subject to operational requirements.

Armed Forces: Asthma

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will review the medical criteria for acceptance into the armed forces of people with asthma; [179755]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that people with asthma are not automatically rejected upon application to the armed forces. [179756]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 Janu[illegible]08]*: It is essential that all recruits to the armed forces are operationally effective, and the medical tests that they undergo on recruitment are designed to ensure this. Examining medical officers will consider each applicant on his or her own merit and apply their clinical judgement individually. Because of its potentially adverse effect on performance and respiratory fitness, and because of the requirement for long term access to respiratory medication, and possible associated medical care, candidates who have a current wheezing condition will in almost all cases be rejected. Candidates who have been free from symptoms and off all treatment for a period of at least four years may be considered for employment, subject to further assessment of their respiratory function.

We do review the medical standards for entry to the armed forces on a regular basis, and update them as appropriate. The guidance on respiratory conditions was last reviewed and updated in September 2006.

Armed Forces: Inquests

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on legal representation for military inquests in each year since 2003. [179679]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A coroner's inquest is a non-adversarial fact-finding inquiry and in the majority of inquests MOD does not instruct a legal team. However, MOD as an interested person, does, in a minority of cases consider it would be of assistance to have Counsel present, particularly where deaths have occurred in complex and unusual circumstances and to assist the coroner in undertaking his statutory function.

The amount spent by the Department on legal representation for military inquests in the UK and overseas each year since 2003 is as follows:

	£
2003	9,357.12
2004	61,841.16
2005	76,265.40
2006	276,589.91
2007	736,228.07

These figures include external legal advice on inquest related matters as well as costs for representation at inquests. The increase in costs in 2006 and 2007 reflect the increased volume of inquests held in Oxfordshire following the provision of additional resources to clear the backlog of inquests into operational deaths overseas.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peace establishment was of the *(a)* 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh, *(b)* 1st Battalion Irish Guards, *(c)* 4th Battalion The Rifles and *(d)* 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery before its deployment to Iraq; what the strength was of the battalion on deployment; how many reinforcements to the battalion were received from (i) the regular Army, (ii) the Territorial Army and (iii) the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks remained in the UK (A) on recruitment duties, (B) as physically unfit to deploy and (C) in barracks in reserve; and what the battalion's battle casualty replacement policy is. [182384]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the information requested.

	2 R Welsh	*4 Rifles*	*1 RHA*	*1 IG*
Peace Establishment prior to deployment	760	670	559	633
Strength on Deployment	522	587	388	409
Level of reinforcement from Regular Army	45	0	0	0
Level of reinforcement from Reg. Reserves	1	0	0	0
Level of reinforcement from Territorial Army	36	2	27	0
Unit personnel left behind on recruiting duties	27	21	8	0
Unit personnel physically unfit to deploy	21	20	30	23
Rear Party Strength[1]	79	95	102	93

[1] Figures for Rear Party strength exclude those personnel listed as physically unfit to deploy or on recruiting duties.

With regard to Battlefield Casualty Replacement policy I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 50W, which applies across the Army.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Department's budget is for the longer separation allowance. [177539]

Derek Twigg: The spend on longer separation allowance (LSA) for financial year 2006-07 was £119 million. For financial year 2007-08 this is forecast to be around £105 million.

LSA forecasted spend is dependent on the circumstances of individuals deploying (i.e. precise time spent deployed, marital status).

Armed Forces: Qualifications

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of members of each service enrolled for courses leading to additional *(a)* military-related and *(b)* non-military-related qualifications in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how many successfully completed the courses; and if he will make a statement. [182793]

Derek Twigg: The majority of personnel, when not on operations or leave, are engaged in some form of military-related training, much of which is accredited for delivering civilian qualifications, but the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table sets out the take-up of non-military related courses, expressed as a percentage of service strength, by personnel undertaking personal development using financial support provided through the armed forces learning credits schemes. Data on course completions are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage

FY	*Royal Navy*	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*	*Total*
2002-03	6.8	17.1	12.0	13.7
2003-04	6.6	21.7	12.7	16.3
2004-05	7.3	22.3	15.6	17.6
2005-06	8.2	23.6	16.1	18.6
2006-07	9.1	24.5	11.7	18.2

Note:

All years include the use of Standard Learning Credit. FY/05 onwards also includes the use of Enhanced Learning Credits introduced with effect from 1 April 2004.

Armed Forces: Schools

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has established a cross-UK forum of devolved administrations, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and his Department as part of the Tri-Service Schools Liaison Policy; and if he will make a statement. [179553]

Derek Twigg: We have established a cross-UK Service Children's Education Forum that brings together the MOD, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the devolved administration education authorities. The forum first met in April 2007 and meets twice a year to consider key issues facing service children, particularly relating to their movement around the UK and between UK and overseas as part of the service community.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the recommendations contained in the Defence Committee report, Educating Service Children (HC (2005-06) 1054), have been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [180433]

Derek Twigg: I have written to the hon. Member in response to him raising this matter during the Armed Forces Personnel debate on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 617. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 878W, on Armed Forces: Training, if he will list each type of aeroplane and helicopter from which British service personnel have made airborne jumps in the last five years. [181204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The types of fixed and rotary wing aircraft from which British service personnel have made airborne jumps while completing service training or display activities in the last five years are shown in the following list. Records for British service personnel, who have completed jumps from foreign military aircraft, are not held.

Fixed Wing

Hercules C130 all marks
Islander
Skyvan
CASA 212
Cessna 206
Cessna Caravan
De Havilland Twin Otter DHC-6
Douglas DC3 Dakota
PAC 750
Pilatus Porter

Rotary Wing

Agusta A109
Bell 212
Chinook HC2/2a
Lynx HAS3/8
Lynx AH7/9
Puma HC1
Sea King HC4
Sea King HAS6CR

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 897W, on departmental official hospitality, what records were kept of entertainment or hospitality received by past or present members of *(a)* the Defence Council, *(b)* the Defence Management Board, *(c)* Defence Equipment and Support, *(d)* Defence Estates, *(e)* Science, Innovation and Technology TLB, *(f)* Central TLB and *(g)* Defence Export Services Organisation in each of the last three (i) financial and (ii) calendar years. [175596]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: Ministers, members of the senior civil service and commanding officers are required to keep Hospitality Books in which are recorded details of all hospitality offered to themselves or members of their staffer unit and whether an offer of hospitality has been accepted or declined.

Detailed departmental rules governing the way in which Crown servants are to react to offers of gifts, reward, or hospitality from outside organisations are set out in a statement of civilian and service personnel policy. Hospitality Books are audited by senior officials and military officers.

Departmental Property

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's properties in Scotland have been declared unfit for habitation. [182536]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and it will take time to determine what information could be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

I will write to my hon. Friend at the earliest opportunity.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure that blood transfusions given to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan are screened effectively before use. [179644]

Derek Twigg: For use in routine transfusions, deployed UK military hospitals maintain stocks of blood sourced from UK National Blood Service (NBS) donor centres, which screen and test their donors according to nationally-mandated standards. For most patients, this licensed blood is all that is used for their trauma care.

However, in circumstances when standard blood stocks might not be appropriate where the properties of whole fresh blood are needed, an emergency blood transfusion from donors at a field hospital on or near the battlefield can be the only way of saving lives of gravely wounded UK personnel.

To enable blood to be obtained in such an emergency, UK field hospitals have an Emergency Donor Panel (EDP), consisting of a group of pre-screened volunteer donors who are available to donate blood at short notice. The volunteer donors will have been screened for suitability in accordance with UK NBS guidelines prior to deployment. Prior to donating at an EDP, a further check is made through use of a health questionnaire and an examination of the veins. Blood samples are taken to confirm the blood group, and for retrospective testing by the UK NBS to confirm that the blood transfused remained free from Transfusion Transmitted Infections.

Coalition partners in both Iraq and Afghanistan have their own procedures in place for pre- and post-screening of blood obtained from their equivalent of an EDP. If a seriously-injured UK casualty is being treated in a coalition medical facility, they may be given a life-saving transfusion of such blood for the same reasons as apply in a UK field hospital, and using the same procedures as would be used to treat one of their own nationals. We co-operate closely with coalition partners in developing world-class life-saving combat medical care work, and in reviewing procedures where appropriate.

TRANSPORT

Birmingham New Street Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the works to be completed at Birmingham New Street railway station are estimated to cost; and how much of this is expected to be met from public funds. [180244]

Mr. Tom Harris: Costs are subject to ongoing commercial negotiations by Birmingham city council and Network Rail. However, £128 million of Network Rail funding has already been committed in their Strategic Business Plan. Birmingham city council has bid for a £160 million contribution from the Department for Transport through the regional funding allocation. A separate bid for £100 million has been made by Advantage West Midlands to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Centro has pledged a further £10 million. The total cost includes several contributions from the private sector.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much extra capacity for train movements will be created by the works to be completed at Birmingham New Street railway station; what plans there are to *(a)* create new platforms and *(b)* lengthen existing platforms; and if she will make a statement. [180245]

Mr. Tom Harris: Additional train capacity at New Street, and across the network, will be provided via longer trains. The Department has already committed to provide the extra carriages required.

Additional passenger handling capacity at New Street will be provided by improvements to the station, proposals for which are being led by Birmingham city council and Network Rail.

These improvements will deal with passenger growth at New Street for the foreseeable future without the need for new or longer platforms. Proposals for New Street also provide improved station access, environment, interchange and wider regeneration benefits.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what processes are in place to ensure that staff of her Department and its agencies have only the security access to data required to do their job. [176934]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The guiding principle used by the Department and its agencies for access to data is that of 'Need to know', consistent with the Cabinet Office Manual of Protective Security.

The Department and its agencies make use of both physical and electronic controls to restrict access to sensitive data including user identification, password protection and access restrictions based on user roles.

In addition to the basic checks performed for all personnel, a number of roles require users to have been security cleared to the appropriate level, consistent with the sensitivity of the data to which they require access.

The Department takes data security extremely seriously and is actively participating in the Cabinet Secretary's review of this matter.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in her Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181367]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following figures represent the number of personal digital assistants (PDAs) issued to male and female staff in the Department for Transport and Agencies for each year since the Department was set up in 2003:-

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (includes 08 to date)*		*Comments*
	M	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	
DfT(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	23	132	52	PDAs only officially issued from 2006 onwards
DVLA	3		8		0		8		0		Cannot split between male and female as allocated to teams rather than individuals.
HA	44	5	81	11	0	0	8	2	0	0	Figures are PDA current distribution - initial allocations not recorded
DSA	15	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	
MCA	n/a	n/a	3	3	27	4	88	13	109	16	Figures are the position at the end of the year; which may vary from those originally issued, due to PDAs changing users.

	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (includes 08 to date)*		*Comments*
	M	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	
VOSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VGA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GCDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	All now withdrawn for policy review.
Totals (excludes DVLA)	59	8	84	14	27	4	157	42	243	68	Grand total = 706 plus 19 unallocated

DfT policy is to provide personal digital assistants (PDAs) to appropriate staff where there are clear business benefits.

Driving Standards Agency

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for variations in pass rates between driving test centres; and if she will make a statement. [180500]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency has identified that the following factors are influences on practical test pass rates:

> The age/gender of the test candidate—in general, younger candidates have a higher pass rate, and males have a higher pass rate than females.
>
> The socio economic background of the test candidate—likely to be linked to more money available to invest in driving lessons and greater opportunities for private driving practice, such as access to a family vehicle etc.

The prevalence of these factors varies between individual test centres, resulting in pass rate variances.

Driving Under Influence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work is being undertaken in her Department to assess the appropriate minimum blood alcohol concentration level for drivers. [180664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No work is being undertaken in the Department for Transport to assess an appropriate minimum blood alcohol concentration level for drivers. Controls over drinking and driving are based on the "prescribed limit" for drivers which represents the maximum permissible alcohol concentration for motorists.

The most recent assessment of the possible effect of a change in the legal alcohol limit was included in the 1998 consultation paper "Combating Drink Driving: Next Steps".

We explained in the report of the second three-yearly review of our Road Safety Strategy (February 2007) that we will keep the alcohol limit under review. But our first priority is to ensure effective enforcement of the current limit so as to tackle those who are the most seriously impaired.

Copies of the 1998 consultation document and the 2007 review report are in the Library of the House.

Durham Green Developments Ltd.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received from Durham Green Developments Ltd., in relation to planning and transport, in the last 36 months. [176369]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 819W, in respect of Durham Green Business Park. There have been no other representations.

Eurostar: Waterloo Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that platforms 21 to 25 at Waterloo International continue to be available for trains after they are handed back by Eurostar. [180662]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is primarily the railway infrastructure outside Waterloo that limits the number of trains that can use the station rather than the number of platforms. Therefore the need is to run longer trains rather than more trains. So we are planning a large scheme to make all the platforms long enough to accommodate 10 and 12 car trains and to modify the junction layout on the approaches to the station. Such a scheme would allow the use of up to 50 per cent. longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity. The scheme is likely to require the use of all five platforms at Waterloo International. The scheme also presents opportunities at Waterloo International to reconfigure the passenger circulation space and the interchange with other transport modes, and to better integrate the station into the surrounding area. Such an ambitious scheme requires very detailed planning to make the most of this unique opportunity.

In order to make the best use of the facility in the meantime, the Department is working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South Western Trains to finalise the design and costs of the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic services. Therefore some services could use platform 20 of Waterloo International from the timetable change date in December 2008.

First Great Western: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints she has received on the operation of the First Great Western franchise. [183049]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the last 12 months Ministers and officials at the Department for Transport have received several hundred e-mails, letters and phone calls regarding various aspects of First Greater Western operations.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many vehicles over 25 years of age pay vehicle excise duty for all or part of the year; [178834]

(2) how many vehicles have free historic vehicle tax discs. [178840]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of licensed vehicles over 25 years of age at the end of 2006 and registered in Great Britain were as follows:

	Number of licensed vehicles (thousand)
All vehicles	723
Exempt from vehicle excise duty—historic vehicle	307
Exempt from vehicle excise duty—other reasons	232
Not exempt from vehicle excise duty	183

The data given above include vehicles where the year of manufacture is not known.

Network Rail

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the terms are of the binding commitment between her and Network Rail referred to in paragraph 1.4.10 of the White Paper The Future of Rail, Cm 6233, dated 15 July 2004; [180880]

(2) what steps she has taken to use her powers of determination or enforcement under the binding commitment between her and Network Rail referred to in paragraph 1.4.10 of the White Paper The Future of Rail, Cm 6233, dated 15 July 2004. [180881]

Mr. Tom Harris: The July 2004 White Paper proposed a binding arrangement between the Secretary of State and Network Rail. This would combine existing regulatory requirements, imposed, monitored and enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), together with a new Department for Transport (DFT)—Network Rail Reporting Requirement setting out their working relationship.

Under the binding arrangement, at the outset of a periodic or interim review, the Secretary of State has the sole responsibility for specifying the high level outputs that she wants the railway to deliver in England and Wales, and the Government funds available for their delivery. The independent ORR assesses whether the two are consistent and determines the outputs required of Network Rail, and the funding necessary to deliver them in the most efficient way. The ORR then monitors Network Rail to ensure it is delivering the Secretary of State's requirements.

The DFT—Network Rail Reporting Requirement was drawn up in conjunction with the ORR and published in November 2005. It sets out the arrangements for effective communication between Network Rail and the Secretary of State; and aims to ensure that the Department is kept properly informed of Network Rail's progress in delivering the agreed high level outputs. It falls to Network Rail to deliver within this strategic framework; and for the ORR to continue to have sole responsibility for enforcement in the event of non-compliance.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers of binding determination and enforcement are exercised by the West Coast Project Board. [180882]

Mr. Tom Harris: The West Coast Project Board is an advisory panel that has no powers of binding determination and enforcement. Constituted of cross-industry senior level representation, its purpose is to address industry barriers that threaten the delivery of planned timetable improvements on the West Coast from December 2008.

Railway Stations

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the stations code will be brought into effect in each region. [180883]

Mr. Tom Harris: Adoption of the stations code, an industry initiative to improve the complex contractual arrangements at stations, is a matter for Network Rail and the individual train operating companies involved. An industry working group is working towards facilitating implementation of the stations code including agreeing a timetable for implementation on a phased geographical basis.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have occurred involving a motor vehicle striking *(a)* rail infrastructure and *(b)* railway bridges; and if she will consider reclaiming the costs of repair from drivers in those instances where the cause of the accident was negligence. [183050]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has provided the following statistics on train accidents due to road vehicle incursions:

	Trains colliding with road vehicles not at level crossings	*Trains colliding with road vehicles at level crossings*	*Trains running into fallen debris (bridge parapet etc.) following a road traffic accident*
2002	6	16	0
2003	1	30	1
2004	5	20	0
2005	6	21	1
2006	11	14	2

A rail infrastructure manager, such as Network Rail, could seek damages against a motorist who caused an accident.

Railways: Birmingham

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail on the major engineering works scheduled for the Birmingham area between 29 February and 2 March 2008, with particular regard to the avoidance of disruption for travellers; and if she will make a statement. [178826]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government have no power to intervene in Network Rail's operations. However, the Secretary of State met with Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, on 3 January to inform him that the disruption to rail services from the engineering over-runs over the Christmas/new year period, particularly on the West Coast Main Line at Rugby, was unacceptable; and to seek his assurance that such delays would not be repeated and that lessons will be learned.

Railways: Subsidies

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what subsidy has been provided from the public purse per passenger for rail travel in each of the regions in England in each of the last five years. [181753]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold the information in the form requested. However, details of subsidy paid, and premiums received split between each passenger franchise to a subsidy or premium per passenger kilometre level are available in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies of this document are available in the Library of the House.

Railways: Theft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been successfully prosecuted in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available for stealing copper and other metal from the railway network; and if she will make a statement. [183023]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: mail to:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Road Works

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the statutory Network Management Duty introduced in the Traffic Management Act 2004 on the co-ordination and management of road works in each local traffic authority area. [182653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2006, local transport plans produced by local authorities outside London were assessed to determine how authorities performed in each category of the network management duty.

The assessment found that the average mark across these authorities for the Works Management category was "Fair" but the average for all categories was "Good".

The full assessment can be found on the Department for Transport's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/tmaportal/tmafeatures/tmapart2/assessnmdltp

The Department has recently commissioned a three year evaluation contract which aims to determine the effectiveness in mitigating congestion and disruption of different parts of the Traffic Management Act including Network Management and works in the highway. The conclusions will become available towards the end of the contract period.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will draw up a road safety strategy for 2010 and beyond. [175821]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department for Transport officials have begun preliminary discussions with key road safety interests about the new road safety strategy, with a view to wider public consultation later this year.

Shipping: Safety

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Maritime and Coastguard Agency is taking to improve maritime safety standards following the sinking of the Flying Phantom. [182175]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The incident involving the sinking of the Flying Phantom is being investigated by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will consider any recommendations published in the MAIB's final report.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Cosmetics

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department prohibits the granting of licences to test the safety of cosmetics and their ingredients using animals. [181047]

Meg Hillier: The Government secured a voluntary ban on testing cosmetic finished products and ingredients on animals in the United Kingdom in November 1997 and this position has been maintained. The ban was pursued because we believe that there is inadequate justification for the use of animals given the benefits of these products and the alternative tests available.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many post-conviction antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each constabulary area in the last period for which figures are available; what assessment she has made of the variation in bureaucratic procedures used by constabularies for post-conviction antisocial behaviour orders; how many pages each constabulary's application form runs to; and if she will make a statement. [182583]

Mr. Coaker: Data on antisocial behaviour orders on conviction broken down by constabulary area are not yet available but are due to be published in the spring. Police forces devise their own application forms for antisocial behaviour orders and no assessment has been made of the variation in their procedures. It is therefore not possible to say how long the forms are.

Bail

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for breach of bail conditions were made in each police area in the last year for which data is available. [182301]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* The data collected by the Ministry of Justice on arrests are broken down by offence group and therefore do not specifically identify arrests for breach of bail conditions.

Cocaine

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack houses have been closed down in each of the last 12 months; and under what powers they were closed down. [182776]

Mr. Coaker: The official published figures are released on an annual basis as follows:

2003-04: 94 'crack house' closure orders

2004-05: 286 'crack house' closure orders

2005-06: 342 'crack house' closure orders

The Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 introduced the power for courts to issue orders for the closure of premises where Class A drugs and serious nuisance and disorder are a problem. The provision commenced on 20 January 2004.

The data for 2006-07 will be published spring 2008.

Crime

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft and handling of stolen goods, *(f)* theft from the person, *(g)* theft from shops, *(h)* theft of vehicles, *(i)* theft from vehicles, *(j)* fraud and forgery, *(k)* criminal damage and *(l)* drug offences were recorded in each (i) UK police force area and (ii) settlement type as defined by the Rural and Urban Area Classification in each of the last 10 years. [181993]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Information at police force area level is published annually for the following offence groups: violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, fraud and forgery, criminal damage and drug offences.

Figures for 1997 to 2006-07 are provided in the individual volumes of the annual publication "Crime Statistics, England and Wales".

Statistics for theft from the person, thefts from shops and thefts of and from vehicles are published annually for individual police force areas from 1997 to 2000-01 in table 3.1 of "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, Supplementary Volume 3".

Statistics for these four offences from 2001-02 onwards are given in the following tables.

Copies of all the publications referred to above should be available in the Library.

The Home Office does not receive recorded crime data at the detailed geographic level as defined by the Rural and Urban Area Classification.

Table 1: Recorded offences of theft from the person 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	2,120	2,554	2,149	1,657	1,540	2,282
Bedfordshire	111	1,094	1,311	1,214	1,601	1,298
British Transport Police	n/a	13,096	12,112	10,543	9,953	9,943
Cambridgeshire	689	1,087	976	892	846	930
Cheshire	500	861	947	869	1,499	1,498
Cleveland	606	932	1,023	1,057	1,129	1,148
Cumbria	126	188	210	179	215	161
Derbyshire	1,835	2,301	2,180	1,885	1,785	1,668
Devon and Cornwall	735	1,712	1,677	1,676	1,583	1,688
Dorset	629	1,063	945	825	814	767
Durham	436	404	387	277	399	492
Dyfed-Powys	29	24	75	148	122	128
Essex	1,449	1,810	1,783	1,420	1,272	716
Gloucestershire	772	925	942	837	882	823
Greater Manchester	7,475	8,809	7,610	5,304	5,305	5,262
Gwent	195	375	409	465	449	535
Hampshire	1,039	1,699	2,396	2,135	2,085	2,059
Hertfordshire	1,146	2,185	2,298	2,767	2,882	2,417
Humberside	1,478	1,817	1,890	1,440	1,768	1,632
Kent	841	1,217	1,163	1,212	1,626	1,303
Lancashire	2,067	1,566	1,802	1,688	1,670	1,525
Leicestershire	1,455	1,799	1,784	1,676	1,765	1,820
Lincolnshire	296	506	536	487	470	392

Table 1: Recorded offences of theft from the person 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
London, City of	256	295	266	293	323	438
Merseyside	2,191	3,885	3,659	3,800	3,751	3,274
Metropolitan Police	48,510	51,876	46,217	42,047	42,677	37,969
Norfolk	477	750	725	626	607	753
Northamptonshire	692	937	987	1,029	1,190	1,105
Northumbria	1,615	2,965	2,648	2,299	1,863	1,275
North Wales	535	561	463	377	280	262
North Yorkshire	864	1,341	1,448	1,030	1,058	807
Nottinghamshire	3,744	3,924	3,420	2,663	2,526	2,595
South Wales	814	2,536	2,802	2,614	2,405	3,296
South Yorkshire	1,904	2,681	2,326	2,284	2,560	2,699
Staffordshire	1,382	1,478	1,348	1,260	1,322	1,229
Suffolk	477	575	632	773	779	698
Surrey	609	805	829	576	582	466
Sussex	2,481	2,830	2,923	2,902	3,650	3,339
Thames valley	3,683	5,018	4,425	4,266	4,148	4,178
Warwickshire	342	394	359	416	439	408
West Mercia	972	1,125	990	721	723	757
West Midlands	8,202	6,287	5,319	3,674	3,348	2,949
West Yorkshire	7,954	9,470	8,082	7,036	7,248	6,165
Wiltshire	449	731	681	742	728	716
England and Wales	114,848	148,488	137,154	122,081	123,867	114,865

Table 2: Recorded offences of theft from shops 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	9,106	8,410	8,658	8,087	8,655	9,423
Bedfordshire	3,663	3,724	3,708	3,384	3,741	3,617
British Transport Police	n/a	1,543	1,439	1,382	1,594	1,545
Cambridgeshire	4,024	4,420	4,165	3,630	3,760	3,845
Cheshire	4,599	5,542	5,638	5,132	6,267	6,554
Cleveland	6,916	6,207	5,039	4,344	4,924	4,652
Cumbria	2,795	2,571	2,505	2,507	2,686	2,271
Derbyshire	5,022	5,455	4,852	3,810	3,550	3,246
Devon and Cornwall	5,853	7,126	6,730	7,214	7,431	7,416
Dorset	3,180	3,480	3,238	3,308	3,543	3,530
Durham	3,575	2,996	2,709	2,392	2,565	2,339
Dyfed-Powys	1,427	1,390	1,533	1,513	1,455	1,444
Essex	7,149	8,336	8,306	8,489	9,607	9,329
Gloucestershire	3,670	3,816	3,854	3,108	3,354	3,347
Greater Manchester	16,648	16,399	15,489	13,343	14,396	14,827
Gwent	3,085	2,878	2,970	2,806	2,960	2,894
Hampshire	9,311	9,784	11,276	11,195	11,670	11,693
Hertfordshire	4,421	5,474	5,536	5,960	6,101	6,587
Humberside	8,111	8,114	7,676	6,643	6,112	6,762
Kent	7,943	8,394	8,411	8,495	9,991	10,164
Lancashire	8,050	7,781	8,579	8,254	8,655	8,564
Leicestershire	4,846	4,778	4,497	4,428	4,871	5,067
Lincolnshire	3,504	3,517	3,091	3,098	3,390	3,263
London, City of	755	939	982	836	737	770
Merseyside	9,777	9,710	8,662	8,340	9,327	9,623
Metropolitan Police	42,522	41,999	40,116	39,764	41,040	36,944
Norfolk	3,440	3,730	3,877	3,668	3,814	4,122
Northamptonshire	3,451	3,948	3,983	3,747	3,676	3,527
Northumbria	10,565	10,911	9,577	8,775	8,364	9,378
North Wales	3,669	4,020	3,739	3,051	3,111	3,401
North Yorkshire	4,303	4,604	4,966	3,607	3,725	3,629
Nottinghamshire	10,129	9,578	9,421	7,648	7,129	6,907
South Wales	6,726	6,988	7,114	6,586	6,971	6,757
South Yorkshire	7,638	8,214	7,607	6,591	8,028	7,588
Staffordshire	6,411	5,889	5,531	5,064	5,664	5,951
Suffolk	3,072	3,289	3,150	2,856	3,101	2,681
Surrey	3,665	3,680	3,827	3,622	3,416	3,702
Sussex	8,157	6,988	7,077	7,738	8,403	8,229

Table 2: Recorded offences of theft from shops 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Thames valley	11,191	11,350	11,175	10,897	10,923	11,542
Warwickshire	2,464	2,235	2,307	1,918	2,009	2,030
West Mercia	6,433	5,895	6,211	5,745	5,457	5,706
West Midlands	20,053	18,352	17,524	14,344	15,464	14,918
West Yorkshire	12,735	13,858	13,974	11,368	11,782	11,935
Wiltshire	2,542	2,569	2,516	2,440	2,580	2,585
England and Wales	306,596	310,881	303,235	281,127	295,999	294,304

Table 3: Recorded offences of theft of a motor vehicle 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	12,181	11,983	8,705	7,070	6,280	6,108
Bedfordshire	3,873	3,111	2,834	1,965	2,185	1,882
British Transport Police	n/a	1,357	1,201	811	541	457
Cambridgeshire	2,941	3,638	3,307	2,720	2,265	2,347
Cheshire	4,625	4,503	3,994	3,599	3,503	2,935
Cleveland	4,797	4,468	4,463	3,616	2,901	2,256
Cumbria	1,115	1,244	1,060	1,101	1,087	948
Derbyshire	3,832	4,062	3,571	2,785	2,693	2,525
Devon and Cornwall	3,392	3,907	3,396	3,256	3,058	3,025
Dorset	2,499	2,276	2,199	1,767	1,499	1,395
Durham	2,712	2,423	2,369	2,088	2,134	1,889
Dyfed-Powys	841	833	795	727	619	588
Essex	7,505	7,664	7,283	6,419	6,253	5,629
Gloucestershire	1,828	1,977	2,264	1,949	1,706	1,451
Greater Manchester	31,969	26,252	21,870	18,794	17,001	14,877
Gwent	2,610	3,046	3,507	3,189	2,694	2,633
Hampshire	6,506	6,278	5,822	4,871	4,394	4,726
Hertfordshire	3,870	4,287	4,323	3,445	3,361	2,821
Humberside	6,501	7,607	7,619	6,096	4,857	4,067
Kent	7,237	7,138	6,749	6,181	6,438	5,650
Lancashire	6,154	5,585	5,231	4,514	3,849	3,738
Leicestershire	4,604	4,576	3,986	3,506	2,566	2,772
Lincolnshire	1,885	2,101	1,932	1,833	1,690	1,608
London, City of	380	334	226	97	74	75
Merseyside	15,081	13,081	11,403	9,354	7,161	6,1[illegible]
Metropolitan Police	62,112	58,405	55,158	48,026	43,463	37,599
Norfolk	1,888	2,288	2,173	1,851	1,577	1,468
Northamptonshire	3,758	3,817	3,642	3,415	2,896	2,731
Northumbria	7,837	6,981	6,445	5,189	4,748	3,883
North Wales	1,949	2,087	2,038	1,740	1,486	1,607
North Yorkshire	2,349	2,623	2,672	2,097	2,154	1,585
Nottinghamshire	7,714	8,782	8,014	6,284	4,798	4,609
South Wales	11,557	11,844	9,793	7,336	6,896	6,484
South Yorkshire	8,294	10,241	9,621	8,005	7,648	7,481
Staffordshire	5,637	4,463	4,209	3,470	3,411	3,235
Suffolk	1,693	1,606	1,459	1,645	1,264	1,408
Surrey	2,881	3,110	2,947	2,413	2,229	2,205
Sussex	5,442	5,992	5,313	4,379	3,626	3,353
Thames valley	10,255	9,111	8,753	7,651	6,829	6,384
Warwickshire	2,118	2,282	2,125	1,919	1,751	1,696
West Mercia	3,336	3,371	3,432	3,179	2,629	2,340
West Midlands	25,385	23,598	23,217	17,091	14,482	12,249
West Yorkshire	23,765	22,867	19,473	13,961	10,455	9,469
Wiltshire	1,267	1,308	1,265	1,328	1,031	1,024
England and Wales	328,115	318,507	291,858	242,732	214,182	193,410

Table 4: Recorded offences of theft from a vehicle 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	28,610	24,266	20,303	16,936	15,629	15,942
Bedfordshire	8,852	8,323	7,337	6,448	6,735	6,949
British Transport Police	n/a	4,982	4,742	4,070	4,100	3,884
Cambridgeshire	9,804	9,707	7,365	6,449	6,080	6,429

Table 4: Recorded offences of theft from a vehicle 2001-02 to 2006-07

	2001-02	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cheshire	8,820	9,400	8,850	8,011	8,181	7,370
Cleveland	9,454	9,826	8,030	6,510	6,035	5,598
Cumbria	3,368	3,509	3,054	2,840	2,091	1,897
Derbyshire	12,471	12,730	10,787	7,418	7,174	7,490
Devon and Cornwall	14,157	15,470	13,205	11,734	10,786	10,380
Dorset	7,310	7,141	6,404	4,813	5,144	3,863
Durham	5,086	5,023	4,704	3,415	3,952	4,240
Dyfed-Powys	1,209	1,195	1,530	1,604	1,250	1,417
Essex	13,356	13,906	13,757	12,334	13,781	12,736
Gloucestershire	6,312	5,763	6,143	4,810	3,992	3,812
Greater Manchester	42,806	41,022	37,414	31,178	35,802	39,189
Gwent	4,406	5,286	5,416	5,394	5,656	4,972
Hampshire	15,353	15,985	14,947	11,668	13,446	15,140
Hertfordshire	10,453	12,315	11,916	9,664	9,145	8,376
Humberside	14,843	14,881	13,810	11,187	10,748	9,694
Kent	13,361	13,676	12,492	11,713	12,387	11,772
Lancashire	14,861	13,289	11,468	10,822	10,521	10,458
Leicestershire	11,749	11,410	10,030	7,868	7,413	7,748
Lincolnshire	4,897	5,756	4,571	4,074	4,115	3,810
London, City of	511	360	357	156	178	156
Merseyside	14,901	14,973	14,961	13,893	14,997	12,806
Metropolitan Police	112,146	114,987	103,899	88,164	94,309	92,137
Norfolk	7,909	8,451	6,223	4,440	3,812	4,030
Northamptonshire	7,577	8,051	9,069	7,161	6,267	6,356
Northumbria	12,573	13,283	11,644	10,836	10,846	9,545
North Wales	5,712	6,006	5,575	3,609	2,671	2,697
North Yorkshire	5,822	6,947	6,844	4,379	4,589	4,635
Nottinghamshire	20,818	22,227	20,303	16,476	17,741	15,965
South Wales	14,324	18,579	17,289	15,456	16,538	16,221
South Yorkshire	20,427	20,948	19,573	16,199	17,962	17,704
Staffordshire	12,314	10,094	9,576	7,800	7,646	7,682
Suffolk	5,222	4,676	4,323	3,818	4,017	3,990
Surrey	6,513	6,879	6,973	6,830	6,793	7,365
Sussex	15,798	15,116	13,463	10,787	9,856	9,220
Thames valley	31,525	28,518	26,710	23,385	22,426	22,119
Warwickshire	5,899	6,195	5,131	4,725	4,520	5,200
West Mercia	9,725	9,705	8,702	7,764	7,123	6,525
West Midlands	38,239	37,240	33,894	25,380	24,910	27,082
West Yorkshire	41,671	41,340	36,287	24,525	22,557	24,566
Wiltshire	3,997	4,243	4,185	3,617	3,318	3,676
England and Wales	655,161	663,679	603,256	500,360	507,239	502,663

n/a = Not available

[1] The National Crime Recording standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crime: Fraud

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether each individual instance of money stolen through the cloning of debit and credit cards is counted as a distinct crime in local police crime statistics; and if she will make a statement. [182269]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* From 15 January 2007 a revised system of recording plastic card fraud was introduced with agreement from the Association of Payment Clearing Services, Association of Chief Police Officers and police forces. The first stage was the introduction of a less bureaucratic method of recording crimes based on the numbers of accounts defrauded as opposed to the number of individual fraudulent transactions on an account; this also reflecting the fact that in most cases the financial institution where the account is held stands the financial loss rather than the separate parties to individual transactions.

The 2nd stage introduced from 1 April 2007 was to give financial institutions a network of single points of contact within each police force where they can report cheque and plastic card fraud, which will appear in local police statistics.

Where individual account holders or traders are not refunded moneys lost through fraud on plastic cards by their financial institution, they can also report the matter to police, where it must appear in local police statistics on crime based on the number of accounts defrauded.

Full guidance issued to both police and financial institutions is contained within the Home Office Counting-Rules for Recorded Crime (which is a public document available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

under Classification 53C.

Crime: Victims

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to police forces on the requirement to record the ethnic origin of victims of crime before crime numbers are issued. [182294]

Mr. McNulty: The National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office Counting Rules provide guidance to forces on how they record and classify crimes. There is no requirement under either of these policies for police to require the ethnic origin of victims of crime before crime numbers can be issued.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Respect Task Force has conducted on violence against women. [182676]

Mr. Coaker: The Respect Task Force has not undertaken any research (nor planned any future research) which specifically relates to violence against women.

Criminal Records Bureau

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken was by the Criminal Records Bureau to process a records check in 2007, broken down by police force area. [170025]

Meg Hillier: Data concerning the average time taken by the Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) to complete a Disclosure by police force area are not collated by the bureau.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within 28 days. The CRB has exceeded the PSS for Standard Disclosures for several years and has exceeded the PSS for Enhanced Disclosures since April 2007.

Forces performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

The CRB has been supporting those forces that have encountered problems in meeting their targets by a range of measures including the provision of additional resources, monitoring performance, providing demand forecasting data and assistance in introducing new IT initiatives.

A revised service level agreement came into effect in April 2006 between the CRB and the 43 police forces of England and Wales. This new agreement, which was agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) places an additional focus on delivery and the responsibilities of chief officers and ACPO to ensure that the obligations within the service level agreement are met. Monthly performance figures for each of the police forces for their part of the disclosure service are now published on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk

Domestic Violence: Asians

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of numbers of Asian women subject to domestic violence in the *(a)* UK, *(b)* North East and *(c)* Tees Valley in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [182535]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not routinely collect this data. However, the Government is aware of the specific issues faced by black and minority ethnic victims of domestic violence (including forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour based violence), and is currently developing a cross-Government work plan (in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers) to take forward work in this area.

Forced Marriage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of forced marriages which took place in the *(a)* UK, *(b)* North East and *(c)* Tees Valley in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [182534]

Mr. Coaker: The Forced Marriage Unit was established in 2005 as the Government's one stop shop for dealing with domestic and international aspects of forced marriage casework, policy and projects. Recognising the need to prevent forced marriages from taking place in the UK, in 2007 the Unit issued specific guidelines for registrars.

The Forced Marriage Unit received 5,000 enquiries and handled approximately 400 cases in 2007, 167 of which involved repatriation to the UK. We do not collate statistics on where forced marriages take place, but a new system to capture data on cases is being implemented this year.

Identity Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to publish the Gateway review on identity cards carried out by the Office of Government Commerce; and if she will make a statement. [169582]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: There have been a number of Gateway reviews on identity cards, the National Identity Scheme and/or specific projects within the scheme.

The Identity and Passport Service has no current plans to publish the reports on the Gateway reviews.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects that data on the National Identity Register will be required for audit purposes by the National Audit Office. [174006]

Meg Hillier: The National Audit Office has full access to all Identity and Passport Service data as our external auditors. The type of data required to routinely audit Identity and Passport Service accounts however, is unlikely to specifically include National Identity Register data.

Once the National Identity Register is established, the Identity and Passport Service and the National Audit Office will agree what data may be required for audit purposes.

Passports: Lost Property

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on passports: lost property, how many such passports were reported as lost in the post in each year. [179764]

Meg Hillier: The figures given in the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on passports: lost property, for passports reported lost are drawn from reporting arrangements introduced in December 2003, which allow passport holders to advise us of passport losses and thefts. It is not possible to identify the number lost in the post from this data.

The numbers of passports lost while on delivery from IPS for the last five years are as follows:

	Number
2001	2,541
2002	2,982
2003	3,593
2004 (February 2004 to January 2005)	601
2005 (February 2005 to January 2006)	1,018
2006 (February 2006 to January 2007)	727
2007 (February 2007 to October 2007)	586

Prior to 2004 new passports were delivered by Royal Mail (standard first class mail) but February 2004 saw the introduction of Secure Delivery, with the delivery of passports undertaken by Secure Mail Services, a courier service. All losses are added to the database of lost or stolen passports, and further measurers are in hand to reduce losses still further.

Police

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 468W, on police, how many police constables left the service in each age band in each of the last 10 years. [172181]

Mr. McNulty [*holding answer 10 December 2007*]: The available data which have been collected from 2002-03, are for police officers who leave the force from 2002-03 onwards, and are given in the following table.

Police officer leavers (headcount) by age from 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

	Headcount
2002-03	
25 and under	743
26 to 40	2,889
41 to 55	3,877
Over 55	279
2003-04	
25 and under	740
26 to 40	2,720
41 to 55	3,440
Over 55	301
2004/05[2]	
25 and under	570
26 to 40	2,430
41 to 55	4,012
Over 55	319
2005-06	
25 and under	551
26 to 40	2,629
41 to 55	5,333
Over 55	320
2006-07	
25 and under	475
26 to 40	2,548
41 to 55	4,962
Over 55	322

[1] Number of officers who leave during the reporting period. Period runs from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] Data are not available for Leicestershire for 2004-05.

Note:

The majority of the these police officers leave due to retirement.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force are aged (*a*) under 25, (*b*) between 25 and 34, (*c*) between 35 and 44, (*d*) between 45 and 54, (*e*) between 55 and 59 and (*f*) over 60. [183053]

Mr. McNulty: Police officer age is collected within specific age bands only, and the available data are given in the table as follows.

Numbers of police officers[1] *(headcount)*[2] *in post as at 31 March 2007 by age group*

	25 and under	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*
Avon and Somerset	251	1865	1,358	14
Bedfordshire	138	643	434	8
Cambridgeshire	108	764	548	5
Cheshire	165	1,283	811	3
Cleveland	130	918	708	2
Cumbria	88	635	572	4
Derbyshire	143	1,050	879	10
Devon and Cornwall	188	1,843	1,544	18
Dorset	99	829	621	9
Durham	76	932	707	6
Dyfed-Powys	50	664	496	2
Essex	517	1,592	1,267	21
Gloucestershire	96	690	559	5
Greater Manchester	606	4,283	3,144	20

Numbers of police officers (headcount)[1] in post as at 31 March 2007 by age group

	25 and under	26 to 40	41 to 55	Over 55
Gwent	86	838	575	13
Hampshire	322	2,151	1,463	15
Hertfordshire	287	1,243	702	4
Humberside	169	1,104	989	15
Kent	451	2,078	1,218	29
Lancashire	258	2,039	1,366	3
Leicestershire	178	1,240	855	8
Lincolnshire	73	599	572	9
London, City of	46	433	385	7
Merseyside	387	2,055	2,022	17
Metropolitan police	2,503	16,8720	11,543	208
Norfolk	90	852	663	4
Northamptonshire	93	707	538	1
Northumbria	196	2,131	1,691	6
North Wales	88	832	700	2
North Yorkshire	144	895	652	0
Nottinghamshire	172	1,334	959	14
South Wales	151	1,905	1,295	17
South Yorkshire	204	1,767	1,344	13
Staffordshire	169	1,297	877	15
Suffolk	103	743	534	4
Surrey	155	1,106	732	0
Sussex	339	1,751	1,066	13
Thames Valley	441	2264	1,599	23
Warwickshire	104	554	412	1
West Mercia	163	1,244	1,034	11
West Midlands	755	4,731	2,862	40
West Yorkshire	591	2,995	2,180	23
Wiltshire	66	645	557	4

[1] Headcount figures, full-time and part-time officers are counted individually as one officer. This differs from the main officer count which is on a full-time equivalent basis. The figures include officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Police Stations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W, on police stations, what information her Department holds on the number of stations that have closed. [173146]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of police stations opened and closed in England and Wales has been collected centrally from police authorities via a yearly survey. Due to the changes in the use of police buildings it has proved to be difficult to obtain comprehensive information as to the number of police stations in use and of the number opening and closing in any year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police stations there were in each parliamentary constituency in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2006. [178562]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Information on police numbers is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales." The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

The available data are at the police force level and are given in the table.

(b) The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs. The Home Office does not have reliable data submitted by all forces on the total number of police stations.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997, 2001 2005 and 2006

Police force	31 March 1997[3]	31 March 2001[4]	31 March 2005[5]	31 March 2006[6]
Avon and Somerset	2,989	2,994	3,384	3,389
Bedfordshire	1,094	1,036	1,215	1,198
Cambridgeshire	1,302	1,296	1,402	1,430
Cheshire	2,046	2,002	2,186	2,174
Cleveland	1,459	1,407	1,676	1,677
Cumbria	1,144	1,048	1,232	1,230
Derbyshire	1,791	1,823	2,070	2,046
Devon and Cornwall	2,865	2,934	3,369	3,493
Dorset	1,284	1,354	1,450	1,485
Durham	1,461	1,595	1,718	1,699
Essex	2,961	2,897	3,190	3,279
Gloucestershire	1,133	1,173	1,291	1,289
Greater Manchester	6,922	6,909	8,041	7,959
Hampshire	3,452	3,438	3,725	3,707
Hertfordshire	1,759	1,922	2,104	2,126
Humberside	2,045	1,917	2,230	2,224
Kent	3,260	3,319	3,586	3,599
Lancashire	3,248	3,255	3,551	3,583
Leicestershire	1,949	2,032	2,283	2,250
Lincolnshire	1,196	1,202	1,221	1,213
London, City of	859	703	876	869
Merseyside	4,230	4,081	4,317	4,269
Metropolitan Police	26,677	24,878	30,710	30,536
Norfolk	1,432	1,420	1,544	1,557
Northamptonshire	1,177	1,157	1,267	1,317
Northumbria	3,677	3,857	4,048	3,983
North Yorkshire	1,338	1,305	1,543	1,636
Nottinghamshire	2,323	2,275	2,502	2,477
South Yorkshire	3,159	3,197	3,265	3,255
Staffordshire	2,211	2,129	2,280	2,272
Suffolk	1,174	1,133	1,313	1,290
Surrey	1,620	2,066	1,915	1,922
Sussex	3,085	2,855	3,044	3,092
Thames Valley	3,695	3,703	4,114	4,229
Warwickshire	926	926	1,011	1,032
West Mercia	2,040	1,951	2,367	2,351
West Midlands	7,443	7,423	8,056	8,097
West Yorkshire	5,200	4,815	5,631	5,644
Wiltshire	1,154	1,120	1,222	1,219

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2006

Police force	*31 March 1997*[3]	*31 March 2001*[4]	*31 March 2005*[5]	*31 March 2006*[5]
Dyfed-Powys	1,005	1,055	1,174	1,182
Gwent	1,243	1,274	1,438	1,467
North Wales	1,369	1,444	1,652	1,617
South Wales	2,976	3,154	3,281	3,263

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have received injuries from firearms while on duty *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* broken down by police force area in each year since 1997. [176074]

Mr. McNulty: Data on crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapons) from 1997-98 up to and including 2005-06 and are given in the table.

Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapons), by police force area 1997-98 to 2005-06

Police force area	*Total injuries*
1997-98	
London Region	2
Northamptonshire	1
Nottinghamshire	1
West Midlands	2
England and Wales total	6
1998-99 [1]	
Devon and Cornwall	2
Greater Manchester	3
Leicestershire	1
London Region	5
England and Wales total	11
1999-2000	
Avon and Somerset	1
Cheshire	1
London City of	1
Staffordshire	1
West Midlands	4
England and Wales total	10
2000-01 [2]	
Greater Manchester	5
London Region	1
South Yorkshire	2
England and Wales total	8
2001-02	
London Region	1
Staffordshire	1
Warwickshire	3
West Midlands	5
England and Wales total	10
2002-03 [3]	
Gloucestershire	1
London Region	6
Northamptonshire	2
West Midlands	3
England and Wales total	12
2003-04	
Cheshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	1
London Region	7
Nottinghamshire	1
West Midlands	2
West Yorkshire	2
England and Wales total	14
2004-05	
Avon and Somerset	2
Devon and Cornwall	1
Greater Manchester	7
Hampshire	1
Humberside	1
London Region	9
West Midlands	2
England and Wales total	23

[1] There was a change in counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[2] Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[3] The national Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Police: Industrial Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency plans are in place for security in circumstances in which industrial action is taken by the police; and if she will make a statement. [174393]

Mr. McNulty: It is unlawful for the police to call for industrial action among officers.

Police: Interpreters

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to police forces on the provision of *(a)* sign language interpreters and *(b)* lipspeakers for hearing-impaired people detained or questioned by the police. [177213]

Mr. McNulty: Guidance is contained in the "National Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the criminal justice system". Annex C and D of the National Agreement give detailed guidance on how to source the appropriate language service professionals when a registered one is not available and how to identify the right mode of communication with a person who has a hearing impairment. Copies of the National Agreement have been placed in the Library. Additional guidance is issued in individual force areas at the discretion of the chief officer.

Police: Training

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum number of new police officers is that can be trained by each English police force in 2007-08. [175578]

Mr. McNulty: It is currently estimated that a total of 5,455 new recruits will undertake police officer training in England between 2007 and 2008. The Metropolitan Police Service also plans to recruit 1,072 additional police officers during the same period, although this figure is variable. Such estimates are dependent on a number of factors based on funding, the number of applicants meeting the strict selection criteria and the capacity of forces to recruit and develop individuals.

Security Industry Authority

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures the Security Industry Authority uses to validate previous addresses of licence applications who have lived abroad in any part of the preceding five years; [175541]

(2) how the Security Industry Authority (SIA) validates information supplied by applicants for an SIA licence who have been resident in the UK for less than 12 months; and how many applications for an SIA licence from such applicants have been refused because information supplied proved inaccurate since the SIA was established. [175535]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the procedure to establish previous addresses and other information provided in licence applications can be found on the website of the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and in the SIA's booklets "Get Licensed" and "SIA Licence Application Form Guidance Notes". Both documents are available on the SIA website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications/publications_licensing.htm

All applicants for the SIA licence must provide an address history with no gaps and include overseas addresses (where appropriate) covering a five year address history for the purposes of a Criminal Record Bureau check. In addition applicants must provide identification documents. At least one document must show a current address, at least one must show the applicant's date of birth and at least one must include photo ID.

If the applicant has lived overseas or they have spent six continuous months or more outside the UK, they must provide evidence of a criminal record check from the relevant country or countries which is subject to checks by the SIA.

If applicants do not provide a full five-year address history the SIA will return the application form to them. If this information is not forthcoming a licence will not be issued to the applicant.

The SIA does not keep information on the numbers of refused applications for an SIA licence from applicants who have not been resident in the UK for more than 12 months.

Violent Crime Action Plan

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the violent crime action plan. [182853]

Mr. Coaker: We currently plan to publish the tackling violence action plan during February.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the violent crime action plan will include proposed primary legislation. [182855]

Mr. Coaker: The tackling violence action plan will contain a wide range of proposals to tackle violent crime. It is possible that some may involve legislation but no final decisions have yet been made.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Tony Blair

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Tony Blair has sought access to Government papers for work on his memoirs; and if he will make a statement. [181081]

Edward Miliband: The Ministerial Code sets out the rules in relation to the clearance of memoirs and access to official papers. As has been the practice under successive administrations, any discussions between former Ministers and the Cabinet Secretary, including requests for access to papers, are undertaken on an in-confidence basis.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education: Prisoners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which academic courses undertaken by prisoners had the 10 *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest pass rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [180306]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanisms he plans to employ to train teachers to prepare pupils studying for the new school diplomas; where he expects such training to be delivered; what organisations in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector he expects to deliver such training; and if he will make a statement. [180441]

Mr. Lammy: My colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families are providing a nationwide programme of free training and support to prepare staff in schools and further education (FE) colleges to teach the first five Diplomas and functional skills.

This work is being delivered through eight partner organizations from the school and FE sectors. These are the national college of School Leadership (NCSL), the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL), the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA), the Specialist Schools and Academies trust (SSAT), the National Assessment Agency (NAA) and the Secondary National Strategies (SNS).

To prepare teachers and lecturers to deliver Diplomas, QIA and SSAT offer a three-day training package to all Diploma practitioners, which covers the Diploma model, employer engagement, and is developed in conjunction with Sector Skills Councils. The training events are delivered in a range of venues with at least one of the days delivered on site in a relevant occupational setting. The face-to-face training is supplemented by a range of electronic and hard copy materials and access to local teacher development networks.

We are also working closely with the awarding bodies that will be offering diploma qualifications to ensure that their offer of support to schools and colleges complements this range of training.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Capital Punishment

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Afghanistan to stay the execution of the death sentence imposed on the journalist Sayed Parwez Kaambakhsh charged with insulting Islam. [183312]

Dr. Howells: The Government were concerned to hear about the case of Sayed Parwez. We are opposed to the death penalty for any crime. We fully support the right to freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. We are pursuing the matter in Afghanistan through the EU and UN. The office of the UN Special Representative in Afghanistan has already called publicly for a review of the case.

Afghanistan: Civil Service

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds are available to facilitate the training of the next generation of Afghan civil servants in the UK or the US; and how many individuals have participated in such a scheme. [182191]

Dr. Howells: The Government are funding a number of projects to train Afghan civil servants to develop the necessary skills to support a stable and functioning administration in Afghanistan. Some attend courses in the UK, although the majority receive training in Afghanistan. Programmes under way with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding include the following:

> in 2005-06 the Chevening programme spent £83,156 on seven Chevening scholars from Afghanistan (two part-funded by co-sponsors), of whom at least three were civil servants. The FCO also spent approximately £100,000 funding five Chevening fellows of whom three were civil servants. In 2006-07 the FCO spent £148,402 funding 10 scholars (two part-funded by co-sponsors), of whom five were civil servants. In 2007-08 the FCO has committed £330,788 for 13 scholars (one part-funded), of whom six are civil servants;
>
> in 2008 the joint FCO-Department for International Development-Ministry of Defence Stabilisation Aid Fund has proposed a programme for 20 Afghan civil servants at the UK National School for Government. The fund has provisionally allocated £176,000 for this and related follow-up activities; and
>
> the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, led by the UK, has funded the pilot establishment of a civil service training centre in Lashkar Gah. £60,000 was provided for the first six-month period (August—February 2008) from the UK Quick Impact Projects Scheme, and 60 Afghan civil servants have so far received training there.

United States training is a matter for the authorities in the United States.

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Canadian Government on Omar Khadr's detention at Guantanamo Bay and his forthcoming hearing before a military commission. [178828]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the case of Omar Khadr, who is a Canadian citizen, with the Canadian Government.

British Overseas Territories: Wildlife

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which wildlife species in Her Majesty's Overseas Territories exist solely in captivity. [183031]

Meg Munn: There are no wildlife species native to Her Majesty's Overseas Territories that exist solely in captivity.

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182440]

Meg Munn: Statistics on the purchase and postage costs of Christmas cards are not collected and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180568]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is running a wide range of information technology-enabled projects. Some are managed centrally, while others are initiated and managed by the holders of devolved budgets both in the UK or at posts overseas. For those centrally managed projects, and groups of projects marshalled together as programmes around a significant business change, the requested details are shown in the following table.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Current information technology projects > £2 million	*Start date*	*Original planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£ million)*	*Estimated costs (£ million)*
Future Firecrest (AIM)[1]	February 2005	February 2012	February 2012	332.0	347.0
FCONet 3[2]	March 2006	June 2007	February 2008	3.5	< 3.5
EDRM (eRecords/iRecords)[3]	September 2004	March 2010	March 2010	26.5	12.4
FCO Web Platform[4]	July 2005	November 2008	November 2008	13.5	9.7
Secure Video Conferencing	April 2007	March 2008	March 2008	2.5	2.5
Managed Reporting Service	January 2007	January 2008	January 2008	2.5	2.4
FTN (FCO Telecommunications Network) private finance initiative implementation and service 2000-10[5]	May 2000	May 2010	May 2010	180.0	240.0
Ocean (Telecommunications reprocurement)[6]	October 2007	May 2010	May 2010	> 2	
UKvisas Biometrics	May 2005	December 2007	March 2008	121.7	45.5

[1] The cost of Future Firecrest has been increased by the obligation to implement central Government security policies instituted after the Future Firecrest contract had been agreed.

[2] Exact final project costs are being calculated, and are known to be less than the £3.5 million budget, but are not available at the time of writing.

[3] The scope of iRecords has been reduced in the light of financial constraints.

[4] The scope, and hence costs, were reduced on examination of the full business case.

[5] FTN is a service: chargeable by usage. The additional cost reflects a demand that has increased significantly since the original estimates of traffic volumes were drawn up in 2000. Unit costs have been reduced, but this is obscured in the headline figure.

[6] The scope, and hence the cost, of Ocean will be determined shortly, the cost of the procurement is likely to exceed £2 million.

[7] To be determined.

Note:

Implementation of the Prism system, reported on in previous answers, was completed in May 2006, two months later than originally planned, and the implementation programme was closed at the end of March 2007 following the recommendation of an Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review.

Foreign Relations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bilateral summits the Government intends to participate in 2008. [181039]

Mr. Jim Murphy: To compile a schedule of projected Ministerial and senior official travel for 2008 would be disproportionately costly.

Iran: Bahai Sect

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic steps are being taken towards the government of Iran on the human rights of the Baha'i community in Iran. [183413]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU. Most recently, the EU presidency raised concerns about the treatment of Baha'is in a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 January. The presidency specifically raised the case of a group of Baha'is recently arrested in Shiraz, including three individuals who were at the time imprisoned in the detention centre of the Ministry of Intelligence and Security. We understand that this group has since been sentenced for "anti-regime propaganda".

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran in December last year, expressing very serious concern about increasing discrimination against religious and other minorities in Iran, including in particular "attacks on Baha'is and their faith in state-sponsored media, increasing evidence of efforts by the state to identify and monitor Baha'is and prevention of the Baha'i faith from attending university and from sustaining themselves economically". The UK, through the EU, co-sponsored this resolution.

The Government continue to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the safety of members of the Baha'i faith in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [178746]

Dr. Howells: We continue to be very concerned by the treatment of religious minorities in Iran, including Baha'is.

The Baha'i faith is not recognised under the Iranian constitution and as a result Baha'is routinely face discrimination and persecution. In recent years Baha'is have been subject to arbitrary arrests, confiscation of property and restrictions on employment. Denial of access to higher education has been a long-term problem for Baha'i students. We are also concerned about reports that Iranian newspapers, including hard-line Keyhan, have been carrying out a propaganda campaign against the Baha'i community.

We are concerned by the recent sentencing of 54 Baha'is for "anti-regime propaganda". The EU presidency raised concerns about the treatment of Baha'is in a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 January. They specifically raised the case of this group and requested the Iranian government to abandon all proceedings against them.

The Government continue to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise our concerns about the treatment of Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU.

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) with reference to his Department's email, dated 25 January 2008, copied to the hon. Member for Billericay, on Coalition Information Centre documents, what the *(a)* origin, *(b)* recipient and *(c)* date of dispatch was in relation to each document referred to; [178786]

(2) further to the decision of the Information Tribunal of 22 January 2008, if he will reconsider his Department's decision not to release documents relating to the Iraq dossier passed to and from the Coalition Information Centre in 2002 requested by the hon. Member for Billericay. [178835]

Dr. Howells: We continue to consider the information which the hon. Member requested to be exempt from disclosure for the reasons given to him in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's reply to his request of 13 September 2007.

USA: Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for the UK to be associated with 26 November 2007 US/Iraq Declaration of Principles for a Long-Term Relationship of Cooperation and Friendship; whether discussions have been held with US and Iraqi counterparts on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [174794]

David Miliband: We are in close contact with the US and Iraq as they formulate their views on the detail and structure of their long-term relationship following the US/Iraqi declaration of principles. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 23, a decision on the next phase of our military presence will be taken in Spring 2008. We will ensure that future civilian assistance, and any future military assistance, to Iraq is based on a sound legal and political footing.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [178652]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The overall human rights situation in Uzbekistan remains bleak, although there have been some positive steps over the last 12 months. On 1 January 2008, Uzbekistan abolished the death penalty and introduced a limited form of 'habeas corpus'. The EU and Uzbekistan have established a human rights dialogue. These developments are outweighed, however, by continuing concerns in other areas. We continue to receive reports of violations of freedom of expression, religious freedom and the right to a fair trial. Civil society and the media remain under strict control. At least 14 human rights defenders are in prison; others suffer harassment and pressure that has forced some to leave Uzbekistan, or cease their activities. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2008 Annual Human Rights Report contains a fuller analysis of the human rights situation in Uzbekistan.

We repeatedly and regularly register our concerns about individual cases and the human rights situation in general with the Uzbek authorities, both bilaterally and with EU partners. In Tashkent, the EU discussed a range of human rights issues with senior representatives of the Uzbek Government at the first session of the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2007. In October 2007, EU Foreign Ministers called on Uzbekistan to demonstrate progress in key areas of human rights by May 2008. There will be another session of the dialogue in 2008 and a seminar on media freedom. The EU special representative for Central Asia, Pierre Morel, visits Uzbekistan regularly and raises human rights concerns with the Uzbek Government.

Our embassy in Tashkent also maintains regular contact with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and activists throughout Uzbekistan. We have helped hon. Members to make contact with NGOs in Uzbekistan to work on human rights issues and have helped to develop the capacity of NGOs, including to report on human rights violations. We will continue to monitor the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and make our concerns clear through a critical, but constructive, dialogue with the authorities. In November 2007, we funded an NGO to attend the UN Committee on Torture's examination of Uzbekistan.

Visas: Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average length of time was for the processing of visa applications at each issuing post in the last five years for which figures are available. [181627]

Dr. Howells: As the information requested is lengthy I will arrange for it to be sent to the hon. Member and for copies to be placed in the Library of the House. The hon. Member will also wish to note that we are only able to provide figures for the years 2006 and 2007, as figures for previous years are not available.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers her Office employed in each of the last 10 years; [182513]

(2) how much her Office paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182729]

Ms Harman: Press office services are provided by the Cabinet Office Communication Group.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Members: Pay

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost was of publishing the report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries on its review of parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances in 2007. [178781]

Ms Harman: The cost of publishing the report of the Review Body on Senior Salaries on its review of parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances 2007 was £14,804.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single mothers were in receipt of child benefit in Easington constituency in the last period for which figures are available. [182917]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available. The child benefit system does not keep up to date information on whether a recipient is a single parent or part of a couple as it does not affect entitlement.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse arising from the loss of the two child benefit discs containing confidential personal data. [182796]

Jane Kennedy: At this stage it is still too early to provide an estimate of the costs.

Departmental Records

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what test of what constitutes reasonably required information under section 8 of the National Audit Act 1983 is carried out on data transferred from his Department to the National Audit Office; [178783]

(2) what safeguards are in place in his Department to prevent more information than is required by the National Audit Office being passed on for auditing purposes; [178784]

(3) which Acts of Parliament permit disclosure of information which is held by HM Revenue and Customs in accordance with section 18(3) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. [178785]

Jane Kennedy: Each request is judged on a case by case basis and the National Audit Office should provide a clear explanation of why they want to see particular data and limit requests to that data required to fulfil their audit responsibilities.

For each audit HMRC appoint a senior official who has overall responsibility and a designated contact point to oversee day to day activity, including enquiries and information requests.

Following the child benefit data loss incident, HMRC have introduced more stringent data handling procedures, which require that the bulk transfers of customer data only take place with adequate security protection.

For more detail on the changes made, I refer the hon. Member to Kieran Poynter's interim report that was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Various Acts of Parliament permit disclosure of HMRC information. I refer the hon. Member to HMRC's Information Disclosure Guidance manual at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/idgmanual/.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1026W, on fuel: excise duties, how much and what percentage of the increase in fuel duty announced in Budget 2007 has been used to fund public services; and if he will make a statement. [182679]

Angela Eagle: All tax revenues, including those accruing from fuel duty, contribute to the overall level of financial resources available to fund the Government's spending priorities including public services.

Inflation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department issues advice to other Government departments on which inflation measure to use to uprate their items of revenue and expenditure. [181005]

Yvette Cooper: In general, it is the responsibility of individual Government Departments to determine the appropriate inflation measure to use in uprating items of revenue and expenditure although specific items will be discussed with Treasury as part of Treasury's role in controlling public expenditure (as set out in the Managing Public Money publication, available on the Treasury website).

In respect of revenues, as stated in Managing Public Money fees, charges and levies should be reviewed regularly to achieve full cost recovery and are therefore based on actual costs rather than indexation.

In respect of some of the more significant items of expenditure, the practices for uprating social security benefits administered by the Department of Work and Pensions can be found in Appendix A of 'The Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings, 2006 Edition', published by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual cost to the Exchequer would be of restoring the exemption from vehicle excise duty for 25 year old vehicles. [178839]

Angela Eagle: Vehicles built before 1 January 1973 are eligible to be licensed as exempt from payment of vehicle excise duty provided they are not in commercial use.

The number of vehicles over 25 years of age that are currently subject to payment of vehicle excise duty is 183,000. The most recently available licensing data do not completely disaggregate this number by applicable vehicle excise duty rate.

An extension of the exemption would potentially affect cars, vans, motorcycles, motorised tricycles, buses and heavy goods vehicles across all vehicle excise rates excepting those for vehicles registered March 2001 onwards. However, it is not therefore possible to determine the cost to the Exchequer of extending the exemption.

Further extension of the exemption for classic vehicles would be inconsistent with the Government's overall policy intent in vehicle excise duty which is to give rates an environmental focus.

Northern Rock: Fixed Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all the monies lent by the Bank of England to Northern Rock plc and underwritten by HM Treasury are secured by a fixed charge over specific assets. [172326]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the letters the Chancellor sent to the chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee on 11 October 2007, which are available in the House Library.

Taxation: Married People

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what benchmarking he has undertaken in relation to UK tax policy on one earner married couples with children amongst OECD member states; [182554]

(2) what account he took of the Government's objectives on child poverty in determining the tax regime for married couples; and if he will make a statement. [182631]

Jane Kennedy: The principle of independent taxation means each individual has his or her own allowances and income tax rate bands. Levels of financial support in the tax credit system are determined by the level of need, and do not favour any particular household composition.

As a result of the Government's changes to taxes and benefits, 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty and 1.8 million children lifted out of absolute poverty in the UK between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Age: Discrimination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on providing information to businesses on age discrimination in each of the last 10 years; and by what means this information was provided. [177968]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The expenditure in years prior to 2002-03 was by the former Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) and records are not available. The available expenditure information is in the table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2002-03	559
2003-04	1,247
2004-05	615
2005-06	3,737
2006-07	2,330
2007-08 (to December 2007)	256

An Age Positive Week was delivered on three occasions between 2002 and 2005. This employer-focused burst of activity and information comprised ministerial activities, employer events and business awards designed to focus media and employer attention on age and workplace issues and resulted in much increased awareness of the issues via extensive media coverage.

Between 2005 and 2006 we worked with a number of leading business-focused organisations to create the Age Partnership Group, which promoted the Be Ready campaign, launched with a newsletter mailed to

1.4 million employers with information to help them prepare for age legislation. A full evaluation of this initiative confirmed that 95 per cent. of those businesses that ordered the detailed guidance were pleased with the helpful content of the material. To supplement this, tailored publications in employer-favoured top-tips, bulleted or tick-box format have been circulated to businesses to better facilitate their understanding of how best to tackle age discrimination in the workplace and enjoy the resultant business benefits.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings of the cross-departmental ministerial group on child poverty have taken place since 1 January 2006; and who attended each meeting. [180627]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1046W.

A new Cabinet sub-committee, Domestic Affairs (Families, Children and Young People), to be chaired by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, will have oversight of child poverty targets such as the Child Poverty Public Service Agreement.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Office for National Statistics plans to release the next set of statistics on child poverty in the UK. [180628]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 726W.

The Office for National Statistics does not release statistics on child poverty in the UK.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues on recruitment, diversity and employee rights when awarding contracts to external providers for work for his Department. [182931]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* It is a mandatory requirement for all external providers of services to the Department to comply with the full range of social legislation, including that covering recruitment, diversity and employee rights. These requirements are set out in the tendering instructions issued to organisations wishing to bid for contracts, and again in the Department's contractual terms and conditions.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what monitoring systems are in place on diversity, equality and employee rights standards for departmental work awarded by contract to external providers. [182932]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The compliance of external providers with standards of diversity, equality and employee rights is regularly monitored by my Department's contract management staff. Contracts can be terminated in the event of a serious breach of these standards.

The Department has a separate contract with an independent external organisation to check that providers have appropriate diversity and equality policies in place; these checks are made before contracts are awarded, and repeated annually thereafter.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people work in his Department's customer insight team; and what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* objectives of the team are. [177971]

Mrs. McGuire: The remit of the newly created customer insight function is to act as a centre of excellence, providing professional support and challenge and building organisational capability to ensure the customer is placed at the heart of the Department's service transformation programme.

The team operates a flexible resource model, consisting of a small core team (currently 11 people) with technical customer insight knowledge and expertise. The core team is supplemented by project resource with the necessary business knowledge to deliver against the following objectives:

to generate a deep knowledge and understanding of our customers—to inform the design, development and delivery of policies and services;

to build organisational capability across the Department to generate and apply customer insight; and

to challenge and influence attitudes and behaviours—to promote a culture that puts our customers at the heart of everything we do.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179451]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is provided in the following table. DWP paper-recycling figures are reported in Sustainable Development in Government reports. The figures shown for 2006-07 will be reported by the Sustainable Development Commission early in 2008.

	Paper recycled (Tonnes)
2002-03[1]	10,413
2003-04[2]	11,338
2004-05	12,615
2005-06	14,570
2006-07	14,879

[1] Figures for 2002-03 include information on waste generated from buildings on the former DSS estate only. Information on waste generated from buildings on the former Employment Service estate are not available.

[2] Figures for 2003-04 include information for the whole year on waste generated from buildings on the former DSS estate, and for one quarter only, for waste generated from buildings on the former Employment Service Estate.

Health and Safety Executive: Buildings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the office space is of the new Health and Safety Executive headquarters in Bootle; [180140]

(2) what the original office space of the new Health and Safety Executive headquarters in Bootle was planned to be. [180141]

Mrs. McGuire: The design capacity of the building allows for a maximum occupancy of 1,650 staff on any working day. The building represents a 30 year commitment and was designed to be flexible to take care of present and future needs.

The building specification required a building with a net internal area (i.e. usable office space excluding stairwells, plant room etc.) of 24,000 m^2 +/- 5 per cent. The building that was delivered has a net internal area of 23,575 m^2.

Incapacity Benefit: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals under 35 years of age were in receipt of incapacity benefit in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* each constituency in the Eastern Region in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [178092]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance: claimants under 35 by parliamentary constituency in the eastern government office region

As at May each year

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Peterborough	1,060	1,130	1,100	1,050	1,090	1,080	1,100
Basildon	880	930	970	1,000	930	870	890
Bedford	870	860	860	890	980	890	880
Billericay	730	720	810	810	750	720	740
Braintree	710	730	700	670	670	670	670
Brentwood and Ongar	340	340	380	380	360	350	410
Broxbourne	560	580	560	590	600	540	540
Bury St. Edmunds	550	550	540	530	550	530	510
Cambridge	720	710	720	760	780	720	720
Castle Point	450	490	510	520	500	490	500
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	450	430	440	440	430	430	430
Colchester	990	990	960	950	910	930	940
Epping Forest	540	520	520	560	530	490	490
Great Yarmouth	990	1,000	1,010	990	920	920	920
Harlow	630	650	700	710	670	640	650
Harwich	850	860	870	870	860	860	910
Hemel Hempstead	560	560	600	610	580	570	570
Hertford and Stortford	430	410	410	430	470	470	460
Hertsmere	500	500	510	490	520	470	470
Hitchin and Harpenden	330	330	330	340	360	330	330
Huntingdon	530	570	540	560	590	560	540
Ipswich	920	880	840	870	890	910	910
Luton North	730	720	710	720	760	670	710
Luton South	860	830	870	910	950	900	900
Maldon and East	510	510	500	550	500	470	490
Chelmsford							
Mid Bedfordshire	350	340	340	370	360	320	310
Mid Norfolk	570	590	570	590	570	560	550
North East Bedfordshire	390	390	410	440	440	410	400
North East Cambridgeshire	690	730	750	790	830	870	870
North East Hertfordshire	420	430	440	450	440	430	410
North Essex	480	470	510	530	500	470	490
North Norfolk	680	710	700	700	690	650	650
North West Cambridgeshire	600	590	620	630	660	680	720
North West Norfolk	890	920	970	960	910	930	910
Norwich North	980	980	910	910	890	900	860
Norwich South	1,170	1,190	1,180	1,250	1,230	1,200	1,240
Rayleigh	370	420	380	420	390	380	380
Rochford and Southend East	1,030	1,080	1,110	1,090	1,070	990	1,020
Saffron Walden	380	350	380	360	320	350	370
St. Albans	510	490	490	510	520	530	500
South Cambridgeshire	420	440	420	440	460	430	410
South East Cambridgeshire	420	410	440	470	470	470	440
South Norfolk	590	630	610	590	600	540	570

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants under 35 by parliamentary constituency in the eastern government office region

As at May each year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
South Suffolk	460	440	460	450	450	410	410
South West Bedfordshire	520	520	540	550	560	520	530
South West Hertfordshire	340	360	350	350	360	370	370
South West Norfolk	710	680	680	710	760	680	700
Southend West	560	560	560	560	560	570	560
Stevenage	580	610	660	670	650	640	650
Suffolk Coastal	440	430	420	430	420	450	450
Thurrock	880	870	890	930	890	880	880
Watford	540	540	600	610	600	600	610
Waveney	940	930	900	900	840	800	790
Welwyn Hatfield	600	600	600	690	690	640	640
West Chelmsford	450	470	510	520	550	530	540
West Suffolk	490	510	540	540	500	490	520
Total	35,180	35,460	35,900	36,550	36,340	35,150	35,390

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Industrial Health and Safety: Music

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an employer's duty of care includes taking account of the volume of music broadcast in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [180372]

Mrs. McGuire: Employers do have a general duty of care to employees under civil law. The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 also requires employers to protect the health, safety and welfare of employees so far as is reasonably practicable. This includes protection to hearing from workplace noise. The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 and related guidance set out the duties and advice on controlling noise from music and other workplace noise. Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 sets out the general duties of employers covering members of the public.

Jobcentre Plus: Dismissal

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the Jobcentre Plus staff dismissed between October 2006 and September 2007 for unsatisfactory attendance receive incapacity benefit; and how much such benefit they have received as at the most recent date for which figures are available. [181040]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 30 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many of the Jobcentre Plus staff dismissed between October 2006 and September 2007 for unsatisfactory attendance receive Incapacity Benefit; and how much benefit they have received as at the most recent date for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Data Protection Act prevents us from checking whether any individual is in receipt of benefit except as required to administer that benefit. Further we are not permitted to disclose any details without their written permission.

Poverty

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children were living in households in poverty in Peterborough constituency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [178645]

(2) how many people in the Peterborough City Council area were living in a household where the income was less than 40 per cent. of median income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178646]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region. However, we do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income, or any lower thresholds, in our HBAI publication as it is not a reliable measure of poverty.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many planning applications have been refused as a result of mobile telephone operators not being able to demonstrate that they have fully considered all options for the proposed new base station. [183075]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Local planning authorities are not required to inform central Government of the reasons for refusing planning permission.

Certification Officer: Trade Unions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Certification Officer's office has a recognition agreement with a trade union. [181855]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The Certification Office does not have a recognition agreement with a trade union. However, Certification Office staff are all Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service staff provided to the Certification Officer by ACAS. ACAS has a recognition agreement with the Public and Commercial Services and the PDA.

Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what Government support is being provided to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation in 2007-08. [174649]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* I am not aware of any direct Government support being provided to the organisation in 2007-08.

Energy Technologies Institute: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are employed by the Energy Technologies Institute. [180481]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Energy Technologies Institute was legally established on 12 December 2007 as a limited liability partnership. The Institute currently employs one full-time permanent member of staff—the chief executive. In addition, there are currently 12 interim staff and three secondees engaged at the ETI headquarters.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measure is used to calculate the annual uprating of the buyout price under the renewables obligation; and when the price will next be uprated. [181020]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem calculate the buy-out price on an annual basis to reflect changes in the retail prices index (RPI). The buy-out price for the renewables obligation for 2008-09 is £35.76 as announced by Ofgem on 28 January 2008.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households in each parliamentary constituency were in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [174301]

Malcolm Wicks: Fuel poverty is defined on a household basis and as such the number of people in fuel poverty is not available.

Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for England in 2003 and are taken from the fuel poverty indicator (FPI) dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

It is important to note that the FPI only predicts the level of fuel poverty in individual areas. It cannot take into account local circumstances. As with all small area indicators, it is important to use local knowledge and data to complement the FPI when developing local fuel poverty programmes. A table showing the approximate levels of fuel poverty in 2003 for each constituency has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Fuels: Competition

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to encourage a competitive energy market in the bottled gas and oil sector for households that are off-network. [181164]

Malcolm Wicks: The price of bottled gas and other oil derived products is influenced by the price of oil in the international oil market. The Government believe that the consumer is best served by the operation of open competition between companies, and the supply of oil products is a commercial matter, subject to UK competition law under the Competition Act 1998. The regulation of supply of oil products, including bottled gas, to consumers is therefore the responsibility of the Office of Fair Trading, which monitors the market.

In addition, the Competition Commission (CC) recently carried out an investigation into the supply of bulk liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The conclusions were published in June 2006, and are available at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk.

The report highlighted a number of issues that prevent, restrict, or distort competition for the supply of domestic LPG, and provides measures to be taken. Following which the CC arrived at a package of remedies, consulted on these, and is looking to impose them through an order on the industry. More information is available on the CC's website:

http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/current/gas/index.htm

The proposed remedies will also try and address the issue of price transparency, as they propose that LPG suppliers will be required by order to:

provide to any industry trade associations of which they are members contact details and details of areas served; and

provide price quotes on their web sites and over the phone to consumers.

The OFT has been closely involved in this work as it has progressed. The order is likely to be published in January and it will come into full force later in 2008. The OFT will monitor the effect of the order and follow up any alleged breaches of it with the suppliers concerned. It is to be expected that the increased ability of consumers to switch supplier will increase competition in the market and put downward pressure on prices.

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the members are of the panel which considers challenges to the Ofgem industry codes. [179041]

Malcolm Wicks: Gas and electricity licences require the establishment of industry codes which set out the detailed rules that underpin operation of the market and terms for connection and access to energy networks. Some alterations to these codes require Ofgem's consent.

Challenges to Ofgem code decisions can be undertaken in two ways; either by judicial review or by an appeal to the Competition Commission under the Energy Act 2004.

The Competition Commission appoints members of the panel responsible for determining code appeals. These members can be anyone the Competition Commission believes has sufficient knowledge of the subject matter of the case and who is available for the duration of the appeal.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the dates have been of challenges to the Ofgem industry codes in the last five years; and what the outcome was of each. [179042]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been four challenges in the last five years to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority's (GEMA's) decisions concerning the industry codes. Two of these were by way of appeals to the Competition Commission under section 173 of the Energy Act 2004 and two by way of judicial review.

Utilita Electricity Limited lodged an appeal on 13 April 2006 with regard to Ofgem's decision on a modification proposal to the Balance and Settlement Code P194: Revised Derivation of the 'Main' Energy Imbalance Price. Utilita withdrew its appeal on 4 May 2006.

E.ON UK plc lodged an appeal on 30 April 2007 with regards to Ofgem's decision on a modification proposal to the Uniform Network Code: UNC 116: Reform of NTS Offtake Arrangements. The appeal was upheld in part.

Drax Power Limited, Scottish Power Generation Limited and Teesside Power Limited sought a judicial review in 2003 of the Authority's decision on a modification proposal to the Balance and Settlement Code: P82: Introduction of zonal transmission losses on an average basis. Ofgem's decision was quashed.

Certain industry parties applied on 10 December 2007 for judicial review of a relatively recent decision of GEMA's concerning proposals to modify one of the industry codes, namely the Balancing and Settlement Code.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Ofgem industry codes were last reviewed or updated. [179048]

Malcolm Wicks: The industry codes are subject to modification change proposals that are presented to Ofgem for a decision. Each code has its own set of modification rules which are presided over by a code modification panel.

Since the inception of the codes, Ofgem has frequently initiated policy projects aimed at reviewing or reforming aspects of the gas and electricity market and trading arrangements. In many cases, these projects have impacts on particular areas of the codes. Examples of such projects include reviews of the new electricity trading arrangements in 2002, the new gas trading arrangements in 2000 and the current transmission access and electricity cash-out reviews.

Ofgem is also currently in the process of initiating an industry wide code governance review. This review is considering among other things the role and treatment of environmental issues within the codes framework.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what changes to the Ofgem industry codes have been implemented in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [179049]

Malcolm Wicks: Over 1,200 modifications have been received by Ofgem over the last five years. Of these Ofgem directed the implementation of 869 across all the industry codes. For the more significant codes, the breakdown is as follows:

Code	*Decisions*	*Accepted*
Network code	143	94
Uniform network code	157	101
Balance and settlement code	112	62
Connection and use of system code	105	86

Details of the changes can be found on the following web pages:

Network code

http://www.gasgovernance.com/Code/TranscoNetworkCodeArchive/Mods/

Uniform network code

http://www.gasgovernance.com/Code/Modifications/

Balance and settlement code

http://www.elexon.co.uk/changeimplementation/ModificationProcess/modificationdocumentation/default.aspx

Connection and use of system code

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/Codes/systemcode/amendments/

Heating: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with suppliers of liquefied petroleum gas for domestic heating on the fairness to consumers of their pricing policies. [178050]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* There have been no recent discussions between my Department and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) suppliers.

However, I am aware that the Competition Commission are currently consulting upon measures they plan to take following their 2006 report into the LPG market.

Metals

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to set minimum volumes of copper and other specified metals which scrap metal merchants may purchase in a single transaction; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such a regime upon thefts of small quantities of those metals. [183037]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

We are aware of the recent increase in thefts of metal such as copper, much of which is sold through scrap metal dealers. We are working closely with the police and the industries affected to develop plans to deal with these crimes.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has set up a working group which includes Home Office representation and this group is looking at a wider range of proposals for tackling the problem, which will include assessing the scope and effectiveness of current legislation.

Microgeneration: Research

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Department has allocated for research into microgeneration technologies between September 2007 and the end of the financial year 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [167135]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Technology Strategy Board, an executive non-departmental public body of DIUS, is proposing to invest in microgeneration and solar photovoltaic technology activities under the forthcoming Low Carbon Energy technologies call within the TSB's Collaborative R and D programme which was launched 19 December 2007 and has an indicative budget of £10 million. In addition to microgeneration/solar photovoltaic areas, priorities include Carbon Abatement Technologies, Hydrogen and Fuel cells, Intelligent Grid Management and Bioenergy. Funding has not been earmarked for each specific technology and the appropriate budget will be allocated following a competition in which projects submitted within these priorities will be assessed and ranked against the Technology Strategy Board criteria. Also in this period the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has awarded a £6.3 million grant for a consortium to investigate Photovoltaic Materials for the 21st Century.

Natural Gas

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the United Kingdom's total storage capacity for liquefied natural gas is; and what recent proposals he has considered to increase this capacity. [182264]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The total capacity of Great Britain's existing fixed storage capacity for liquefied natural gas (LNG) is estimated as the equivalent of 310 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas in gaseous form.

This comprises:

LNG storage 'bullets' (integral to National Grid's transportation system)—capacity equivalent to 260 mcm;

LNG storage facilities at import terminals capacity equivalent to 50 mcm.

Major LNG storage capacity will also be provided at the two new LNG import terminals which are expected to be commissioned at Milford Haven later this year.

The Government do not dictate specific projects. In a liberalised gas market, in which businesses make commercial decisions on which facilities to develop, the Government's role is to enable commercial projects by providing an appropriate regulatory framework.

Personation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to protect the public from identity fraud. [181262]

Meg Hillier: I have been asked to reply.

We are involved in a variety of activity to protect the public from identity fraud. A public-private sector work programme, the Identity Fraud Steering Committee, was set up in 2003 to co-ordinate this work. There have been a number of successes. Tougher criminal penalties have been introduced for driving licence and passport offences, alongside offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 to target those who possess and use false identity documents and genuine documents belonging to someone else.

Face to face interviews of first time passport applicants over 16 years old are now taking place in 66 interview offices to verify the identity of individuals, and this is one of a series of measures to improve the prevention and detection of fraudulent passport applications. In addition the Passport Validation Service allows public and private sector organisations to check passports presented as proof of identity against the passport database, realising significant savings in its 18 months of operation.

More powers to share data to combat fraud have been enacted, and most recently the Disclosure of Death Registration Information Scheme was launched on 16 January 2008. We have sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters, and have worked extensively to raise public awareness.

Finally, our plans for a national identity scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly and with vastly improved security.

Post Offices: Closures

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what provision has been made to protect vulnerable post office users who will lose access to post office counter services as a result of branch closure. [178830]

Mr. McFadden: The Government introduced a minimum access criteria to maintain a national network of post offices and, in particular, to protect vulnerable post office users in deprived urban, rural and remote areas:

Nationally, 99 per cent. of the UK population to be within three miles and 90 per cent. of the population to be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet.

99 per cent. of the total population in deprived urban areas across the UK to be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet.

95 per cent. of the total urban population across the UK to be within one mile of their nearest post office outlet.

95 per cent. of the total rural population across the UK to be within three miles of their nearest post office outlet.

In addition, the following criterion will apply at the level of every individual postcode district (of which there are some 2,800 in the UK), establishing a minimum level of coverage at a very local level:

95 per cent. of the population of the postcode district to be within six miles of their nearest post office outlet.

In applying the criteria, Post Office Ltd. will be required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on local economies. The introduction of these additional factors addresses widespread concerns from respondents to the consultation. Post Office Ltd. will also take account of local conditions such as rivers, mountains and valleys, motorways and sea crossings to islands.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches earmarked for closure as part of the Network Change programme were profitable. [182064]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches earmarked for closure as part of the Network Change programme have had that decision changed following the public consultation process. [182065]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: As at 22 January 2008, Post Office Ltd. had announced that 20 proposed post office closures would not proceed, following local public consultations on eight area plans.

Post Offices: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total subsidy was to post offices in Lancashire in the latest year for which figures are available. [183618]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Standards

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the minimum number of post office branches is that would allow Post Office Ltd to fulfil the minimum access criteria laid down in the Network Change programme. [182063]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Post Office Ltd. currently estimates that the minimum size of network necessary to meet the access criteria is around 7,500 offices. But it remains Government policy to maintain a sustainable network of around 11,500 post offices and the £1.7 billion funding package announced on 17 May supports the network at that level to 2011. The access criteria set a minimum floor for the network size and Post Office Ltd. has been asked to undertake, in consultation with Postwatch, an updated study and analysis of the minimum number of post offices required to meet the access criteria.

Post Offices: Urban Areas

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches classified as urban there were at the end of the financial year 2006-07. [182067]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: I understand from Post Office Ltd. that as at end March 2007 6,477 post offices were classified as urban.

Regional Development Agencies: Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much each regional development agency spent on consultants in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; [178969]

(2) what procedures and criteria are applied by regional development agencies to the selection and appointment of consultants; and what tasks regional development agencies have appointed consultants to undertake since 2004. [178970]

Mr. McFadden: Consultancy services have been identified as services commissioned by RDAs to inform the management of the Agency, organisational development, strategy development, and communications and marketing. The services are used when the necessary knowledge and resources cannot be found in-house.

This definition does not relate to services for specific project or programme delivery (for example legal advice on land deals as part of development projects).

The following table shows how much each RDA has spent on consultants in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Figures in £000.

£000

RDAs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
AWM	672	496	247
EEDA	226	714	563
EMDA	149	228	148
LDA	335	287	[1]1,400
NWDA	792	535	518
ONE	200	309	197
SEEDA	125	98	120
SWRDA	648	557	281
YF	296	194	228

[1] LDA: An Agency wide restructure was key to implementing changes required to align the LDA management team with the challenges and opportunities presented as a result of London winning the 2012 Olympics. Consultants were employed to oversee the restructure and the 'New ways of Working' project.

Consultancy services are procured in accordance with OJEU and public procurement regulations (public contract regulations 2003 and 2006), and individual RDA financial memoranda and regulations.

Appointments are made either through a pre-tendered panel of suppliers or through a competitive procurement process. RDA procurement procedures include documented tender specification, and an assessment of the supplier's financial standing, pricing, quality and capacity to deliver the assignment and value for money.

Renewable Energy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of renewable energy in England came from landfill and bio-sewage gas in 2006-07. [183284]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest available information relates to 2006 when 4.1 per cent. of renewable energy in the UK (in terms of total primary energy supply) came from sewage gas, and 30.3 per cent. came from landfill gas. Figures for England only are not available.

In terms of total final energy consumption (the basis used for the EU renewables targets announced last week), in 2006, 4.1 per cent. of renewable energy in the UK came from sewage gas, while 18.2 per cent. came from landfill gas. The contribution from landfill gas is lower under this measurement because nearly all landfill gas is used for electricity generation and losses incurred in transforming the gas into electricity are not included in the final consumption basis.

South East England Development Agency

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit the South East England Development Agency realised from its (i) Enterprise Gateway projects and (ii) Enterprise hubs in each of the last five years. [131672]

Mr. McFadden: Turnover and profit figures are not collected for businesses participating in enterprise gateways and hubs.

South East England Development Agency: Shoreham Harbour

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the South East England Development Agency has held with stakeholders in the last year about *(a)* the development of Shoreham Harbour and *(b)* the infrastructure improvements to transport links with Shoreham Harbour. [181674]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

(a) SEEDA has taken a lead role with key stakeholders to secure the policy and delivery framework for this major exemplar of regional development in the Shoreham Harbour area:

- a steering group chaired by SEEDA, together with sub-groups, was formed to look at specific issues, with the full support of Adur district council, Brighton and Hove city council, West Sussex county council and GOSE. In addition, Shoreham port authority, the Environment Agency and the Highways Agency are all part of the group.
- meetings have taken place on a monthly basis over the last year and the stakeholders have been given the opportunity to guide and scrutinise the actions of the project.
- discussions have also taken place with the transport team within GOSE, Transport Department and the Highways Agency together with the Local Authorities Highways department to establish that the vision being promoted by SEEDA is capable of being implemented with the approval of the wider stakeholder community.
- many stakeholders have been given opportunity to guide and scrutinise the actions of SEEDA on the project, although as yet it is still in the very early exploratory stages.

(b) Transport issues are just one aspect of the project that will need to be assessed to establish that the vision now being promoted by SEEDA is capable of being implemented with the approval of the wider stakeholder community. This includes the need for any additional infrastructure. To date:

- briefing has been supplied to the elected representatives in the local councils at key stages, and now all three local authorities covering the area have formally agreed to participate in a Joint Area Action Plan. This will explore systematically the scope for introducing new homes and employment in the Shoreham area, and will be subject to the full statutory planning process, including public consultation.
- work on the Action Area Plan is only just starting now, but will offer all stakeholders—including individual members of the public—opportunities to consider the benefits and sustainability of any development proposals, and to submit their views before planning permission is granted.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 has any implications for policy making in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [181900]

Mr. McFadden: I understand that my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will shortly begin a formal consultation on the implementation of the Act. My Department will assess any requests, in due course, that are relevant to my responsibilities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the Building Schools for the Future project on the future budgets of *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [181802]

Jim Knight: Twenty-first century school buildings, built to current high quality and sustainability standards, should have lower running and maintenance costs than the unsuitable and time-expired buildings which they will replace. They will allow more resources to be focused on the core activities of improving children's attainment and life chances.

In addition, as part of the work undertaken for the initial pilot projects, the Department reviewed the funding for PFI projects to ensure that the contribution that local authorities and schools make to the unitary charge was affordable. This had the effect of increasing the level of support from central Government for PFI projects than was the case prior to BSF.

Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1269-70W, on education, what the names are of the four unregistered settings referred to in the answer. [182608]

Jim Knight: The current registration requirements only apply to independent schools that offer full-time education. There is currently no requirement for part-time providers to register. As every child is entitled to full-time education, parents, local authorities or others will, where appropriate, need to supplement part-time provision to ensure that children receive their full education entitlement.

There is currently no statutory definition of 'part-time' and 'full-time' education in terms of hours or days spent studying and we understand that the providers named as follows provide a large proportion, and in some cases all, of their pupils' education provision. We believe that settings where children receive a substantial proportion of their education should be regulated with a light touch compared to schools in the maintained sector, but that it should still be ensured that the premises are safe. We think it important that all necessary personnel suitability checks are completed, appropriate child welfare arrangements are in place, and children learn and make progress. We are confident that any goodquality provision will meet the independent school standards as they are flexible enough to cover many different types of provision. There is no requirement to follow the national curriculum, or to employ teachers with qualified teacher status, for example.

We have no comprehensive record of part-time providers of education. The responses to our consultation suggested that there are some settings we are unaware of that may need to register under current proposals. Before the new legislation comes into force, we will work with any institution that will need to register to ensure it is clear about our requirements and time scales.

The four unregistered settings in the same order as they appeared in my previous answer, are as follows:

Tyndale Academy;
Headstart Learning Centre;
The Children's Garden;
Kid's Company.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what were the 10 subjects most frequently studied to GCSE level in each category of school in the last period for which figures are available; and how many students studied each subject. [181033]

Jim Knight: The following tables show the 10 subjects most studied to GCSE level in 2007 for each type of school. Numbers and percentages are provided. The overall figures for England are also included. National figures for all subjects can be found in the SFR "GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)", available at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml.

GCSE attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4[2] in schools (number), years: 2006/07[3] (Revised), coverage: England

		Community School	
	Subject	*Number of attempts*	*Percentage of pupils attempting subject*
1	Mathematics	360,675	97
2	English	356,159	96
3	English Literature	294,772	80
4	Double Award Science	255,995	69
5	History	107,743	29
6	Art and Design	107,229	29
7	Geography	98,035	27
8	Physical Education	93,794	25
9	French	90,271	24
10	Drama	59,578	16

		Voluntary Aided School	
	Subject	*Number of attempts*	*Percentage of pupils attempting subject*
1	Mathematics	83,579	98
2	English	83,085	98
3	English Literature	71,981	85
4	Religious Studies	62,959	74
5	Double Award Science	60,038	71
6	History	28,852	34
7	French	28,532	34
8	Geography	25,212	30
9	Art and Design	22,505	26
10	Physical Education	20,453	24

Voluntary Controlled School

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	19,142	98
2	English	18,983	98
3	English Literature	16,725	86
4	Double Award Science	13,960	72
5	French	6,718	35
6	History	6,018	31
7	Art and Design	5,871	30
8	Geography	5,721	29
9	Physical Education	5,202	27
10	Business Studies	3,510	18

Foundation School

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	106,591	98
2	English	105,895	98
3	English Literature	91,998	85
4	Double Award Science	74,413	69
5	History	35,715	33
6	French	33,681	31
7	Geography	32,324	30
8	Art and Design	31,425	29
9	Physical Education	27,457	25
10	Religious Studies	19,062	18

City Technology College

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	1,744	100
2	English	1,743	100
3	English Literature	1,596	92
4	Double Award Science	770	44
5	French	709	41
6	History	622	36
7	Geography	581	33
8	Physical Education	480	28
9	Business Studies	457	26
10	Art and Design	427	25

Academy

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	6,141	96
2	English	6,036	94
3	English Literature	4,566	71
4	Double Award Science	3,494	55
5	Art and Design	1,530	24
6	Single Award Science	1,361	21
7	History	1,225	19
8	Religious Studies	1,072	17
9	Physical Education	1,033	16
10	Geography	963	15

Community Special School

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	2,098	22
2	Art and Design	1,421	15
3	Single Award Science	1,281	13
4	English	1,164	12
5	D & T: Resistant Materials	294	3
6	English Literature	218	2
7	Drama	175	2
8	Double Award Science	153	2
9	Physical Education	135	1
10	Information Technology[4]	128	1

Foundation Special School

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	English	79	34
2	Mathematics	54	23
3	Single Award Science	48	21
4	Art and Design	44	19
5	English Literature	23	10
6	Geography	23	10
7	Drama	7	3
8	Double Award Science	[5]—	[6]—
9	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	N/A	N/A	N/A

Non Maintained Special School

	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	247	39
2	English	178	28
3	Art and Design	172	27
4	Single Award Science	145	23
5	Double Award Science	64	10
6	D & T: Resistant Materials	62	10

		Non Maintained Special School	
	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
7	English Literature	54	9
8	French	54	9
9	History	40	6
10	Geography	25	4

		Independent Special School	
	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	Mathematics	432	59
2	English	363	50
3	Single Award Science	235	32
4	Art and Design	234	32
5	D & T: Resistant Materials	147	20
6	Double Award Science	145	20
7	Geography	88	12
8	English Literature	79	11
9	Physical Education	65	9
10	History	62	8

		Independent Schools	
	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	English	43,506	93
2	English Literature	40,066	86
3	Mathematics	33,484	72
4	French	28,778	62
5	Double Award Science	25,583	55
6	History	23,875	51
7	Geography	21,858	47
8	Biological Sciences	15,423	33
9	Art and Design	15,003	32
10	Chemistry	14,326	31

		All Schools	
	Subject	Number of attempts	Percentage of pupils attempting subject
1	English	619,481	95
2	Mathematics	616,890	95
3	English Literature	522,446	80
4	Double Award Science	434,779	67
5	History	204,251	31
6	French	189,740	29
7	Art and Design	186,483	29
8	Geography	184,978	28
9	Physical Education	155,510	24
10	Religious Studies	155,249	24

[1] For each subject only one attempt is counted - that which achieved the highest grade.

[2] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2006/07 academic year.

[3] Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.

[4] Also includes Computer Studies, Information Systems and any combined syllabus of which Information Technology is the major part.

[5] Less than 5 pupils.

[6] Percentage based on a figure less than 5.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children at local education authority maintained schools gained GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne Local Education Authority, *(b)* England and *(c)* each English region in each year since 1997. [181059]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The information on the number of pupils achieving five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, is shown in the tables.

The information is collected for the Statistical First Release 'GGSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England (Revised)' which is published annually and can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

GCSE or equivalent results by local authority and government office region: 1997 to 2007, number and percentage of 15-year-olds gaining 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at grades A- C including English and Maths*

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Newcastle Upon Tyne	673	24.9	671	25.0	757	27.5	731	27.9	829	29.7	823	29.6
North East	8,758	28.0	8,642	28.4	9,433	30.8	10,026	32.9	10,684	33.6	11,030	34.8
North West	25,718	32.2	26,128	32.9	28,378	35.1	29,477	36.7	30,907	36.8	32,259	38.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	16,765	28.8	17,023	29.9	18,220	31.6	19,228	33.2	20,076	33.6	21,067	34.9
East Midlands	15,272	31.9	15,345	33.1	16,462	35.1	17,018	36.1	18,137	37.2	19,173	38.8
West Midlands	18,493	30.1	18,994	31.2	20,966	33.8	21,530	35.1	22,864	35.8	23,950	37.5

GCSE or equivalent results by local authority and government office region 1997 to 2007, number and percentage of 15-year-olds gaining 5+ GCSEs or equivalent at grades A- C including English and Maths*

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
East of England	21,004	35.4	21,917	38.0	22,758	39.5	23,559	40.4	24,919	41.3	25,759	42.2
Inner London	4,436	21.4	4,741	22.8	5,132	24.3	5,472	25.5	6,150	28.3	6,491	30.0
Outer London	15,288	33.8	16,514	37.0	17,270	38.3	18,014	39.6	18,989	40.6	20,081	42.4
London	19,724	29.9	21,255	32.4	22,402	33.9	23,486	35.1	25,139	36.7	26,572	38.5
South East	30,883	37.2	31,066	38.9	33,254	40.9	34,052	42.1	36,388	43.1	37,428	44.1
South West	18,373	36.1	19,123	37.9	19,927	39.4	20,771	40.8	22,131	41.7	23,225	43.2
England (Maintained Sector)	174,990	32.5	179,493	34.0	191,800	39.4	199,147	37.3	211,245	38.1	220,463	39.5

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Newcastle Upon Tyne	886	30.4	888	31.9	870	33.2	957	33.3	1,079	37.9
North East	11,125	34.7	11,584	35.7	11,785	38.0	12,779	40.3	13,585	41.7
North West	32,345	37.9	34,298	39.0	35,209	40.7	37,049	42.0	39,777	44.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	21,611	35.0	23,006	36.5	24,114	39.0	25,357	40.2	27,077	42.3
East Midlands	19,328	38.3	20,414	39.0	21,187	40.7	22,595	42.8	23,920	44.2
West Midlands	24,266	37.2	25,435	38.1	26,741	40.3	28,095	41.5	29,651	43.1
East of England	26,333	41.9	27,619	42.5	28,897	44.8	30,472	46.5	31,868	48.2
Inner London	7,012	31.7	7,803	34.5	8,307	36.6	9,090	39.1	9,684	42.2
Outer London	20,833	42.8	22,298	43.9	23,083	45.9	24,756	48.6	25,799	50.2
London	27,845	39.3	30,101	41.0	31,390	43.0	33,846	45.6	35,483	47.7
South East	39,329	44.7	40,693	42.3	41,947	46.3	43,652	47.6	45,313	49.2
South West	23,781	42.8	25,313	43.6	26,090	45.4	26,763	46.0	27,289	47.0
England (Maintained Sector)	225,963	42.8	238,463	40.4	247,360	46.7	260,608	43.9	273,963	45.7

Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1898-1902W, on languages, (1) at which maintained mainstream schools no pupils were entered for a GCSE in *(a)* a modern foreign language, *(b)* history and *(c)* geography in 2006; [177914]

(2) how many 15-year-olds attended the maintained mainstream schools where no pupils were entered for a GCSE in *(a)* a modern foreign language, *(b)* history and *(c)* geography in 2006. [177915]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: Answers to these questions can be found in the columns to which the hon. Member refers.

Modern Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his answer of 21 January 2008 to question 177817, on modern languages, if he will list the mainstream secondary schools that have not entered students for a GCSE modern language in each of the last three years. [182126]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The information is shown in the following tables.

Number of maintained mainstream schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language (2005-07)

	Number
2007	27
2006	27
2005	38

Note:

2007 and 2006 figures look at any modern language GCSE. 2005 is for French, German or Spanish only.

Mainstream maintained schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language—2006-07

LA	*LA Code*	*Leaestab*	*School name*
Birmingham	330	3304206	Stockland Green Technology College
Birmingham	330	3305900	St. Paul's Community Foundation School
Liverpool	341	3414783	Campion Catholic High School
Bolton	350	3505402	George Tomlinson School
Barnsley	370	3704026	Willogarth High School
Barnsley	370	3706905	The Barnsley Academy
Newcastle upon Tyne	391	3914500	All Saints College
Hartlepool	805	8054131	Dyke House Comprehensive School
Redcar and Cleveland	807	8074120	Gillbrook Technology College
Stockton-on-Tees	808	8084106	Blakeston School—a community sports college
Durham	840	8404192	Durham Community Business College for Technology and Enterprise
Durham	840	8404218	Wellfield Community School—a specialist maths and computing college
Durham	840	8404280	Easington Community School
Portsmouth	851	8514302	King Richard Secondary School
Staffordshire	860	8604071	Blake Valley Technology College
Stoke-on-Trent	861	8614185	Mitchell High School
Reading	870	8706905	John Madejski Academy
Essex	881	8815400	Chalvedon School
Thurrock	883	8835449	Hassenbrook School—specialist technology college
Lancashire	888	8884005	Skerton Community High School
Nottingham	892	8924060	Fareham Community College
Nottingham	892	8924460	The River Leen School
Cumbria	909	9094005	Lochinvar School
Cumbria	909	9095408	North Cumbria Technology College
Northumberland	929	9295400	Astley Community High School
Oxfordshire	931	9314074	Peers School
Somerset	933	9335401	Brymore School

Mainstream maintained schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language—2005-06

LA	*LA Code*	*Leaestab*	*School name*
Birmingham	330	3304206	Stockland Green Technology College
Birmingham	330	3305900	St. Paul's Community Foundation School
Walsall	335	3356905	Walsall Academy
Liverpool	341	3414783	Campion Catholic High School
Liverpool	341	3414795	De Là Salle Humanities College
Liverpool	341	3416905	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi
Salford	355	3554026	Buile Hill High School
Barnsley	370	3704019	The Elmhirst School
Calderdale	381	3814036	The Ridings School
Sunderland	394	3944014	Hylton Red House Comprehensive School
Hartlepool	805	8054131	Dyke House Comprehensive School
Middlesbrough	806	8064122	Ormesby School
Kingston upon Hull, City of	810	8104004	Kingswood High School
Buckinghamshire	825	8254048	Quarrendon School
Buckinghamshire	825	8254094	The Wye Valley School
Durham	840	8404052	Fyndoune Community College
Durham	840	8404192	Durham Community Business College for Technology and Enterprise
Portsmouth	851	8514302	King Richard Secondary School
Stoke-on-Trent	861	8614185	Mitchell High School
Bracknell Forest	867	8674030	The Brakenhale School
Reading	870	8704013	Thamesbridge College
Halton	876	8764218	Halton High School
Essex	881	8815417	Furtherwick Park School
Thurrock	883	8834299	The Ockendon School
Lancashire	888	8884005	Skerton Community High School
Lincolnshire	925	9255410	The Castle Hills Community Arts College
Somerset	933	9335401	Brymore School

Mainstream maintained schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language—2004-05

LA	*LA code*	*Leaestab*	*School name*
Ealing	307	3076905	West London Academy
Hillingdon	312	3126905	Stockley Academy
Sutton	319	3194000	Carshalton Boys' Sports College
Birmingham	330	3304138	Golden Hillock School—a specialist college for sport and the arts

Mainstream maintained schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language—2004-05

LA	*LA code*	*Leaestab*	*School name*
Birmingham	330	3304173	Queensbridge School
Birmingham	330	3304206	Stockland Green Technology College
Birmingham	330	3304332	The Heartlands High School
Birmingham	330	3304334	Al-Hijrah Secondary School
Birmingham	330	3305900	St. Paul's Community Foundation School
Coventry	331	3314035	Woodway Park School and Community College
Sandwell	333	3334026	George Salter High School
Liverpool	341	3414783	Campion Catholic High School
Manchester	352	3524256	Burnage High School
Manchester	352	3524766	St. Paul's Catholic High School
Barnsley	370	3704026	Willowgarth High School
Sheffield	373	3734281	Parkwood High School
Bradford	380	3804613	Feversham College
Bradford	380	3805404	Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College
Leeds	383	3834757	Agnes Stewart Church of England High School
Bristol, City of	801	8014038	Withywood Community School
Buckinghamshire	825	8254048	Quarrendon School
Buckinghamshire	825	8254067	Mandeville Upper School
Derby	831	8314608	Da Vinci Community College
Bournemouth	837	8374189	Oakmead College of Technology
Brighton and Hove	846	8464000	East Brighton College of Media Arts
Portsmouth	851	8514302	King Richard Secondary School
Stoke-on-Trent	861	8614815	Mitchell High School
Wiltshire	865	8655416	Castledown School
Reading	870	8704013	Thamesbridge College
Slough	871	8714085	Beechwood School
Essex	881	8815400	Chalvedon School
Thurrock	883	8834392	The Aveley School
Kent	886	8865427	Tunbridge Wells High School
Nottingham	892	8924060	Fairham Community College
Nottingham	892	8924436	Henry Mellish Comprehensive School
Nottingham	892	8924461	Haden Park High School
Lincolnshire	925	9254016	The Lafford High School, Billinghay
Somerset	933	9335401	Brymore School

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of referred children received a provisional assessment of special educational needs statement within 18 weeks in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [181798]

Kevin Brennan: Children may be referred to their local authority for a statutory assessment of special educational needs through, a request from their school or setting, a request from their parent or a referral by another agency. The local authority must then decide whether to conduct an assessment based on the initial evidence provided. The Government do not hold data on the total number of children referred for a statutory assessment.

Following a statutory assessment, the local authority must decide whether or not a child should receive a statement. The number of children in each local authority who receive a statutory assessment but do not receive a statement is recorded and is set out for each year from 1998 below.

The Audit Commission publishes figures on the proportion of draft statements issued by each local authority within 18 weeks of the start of the statutory assessment process. This information[1], broken down by local authority, is available from

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Teenage Pregnancies: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of teenage pregnancy in Barnet was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in each of the last two years; what steps his Department is taking in relation to teenage pregnancies; and if he will make a statement. [179101]

Beverley Hughes: The number and rate of under-18 conceptions in Barnet for each year from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year for which data are available) are provided in the table as follows.

	Number	*Rate*
1997	171	30.2
1998	137	24.2

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[1] Best Value Performance Indicator 43a and b give the proportion of draft statements issued within 18 weeks excluding and including the permitted exceptions to the time limits respectively since 2000-01. The proportion of draft statements issued within 18 weeks excluding exceptions was collected as indicator K12b from 1997-98 until 1999-2000 and as indicator K10b in 1996-97.

	Number	Rate
1999	162	28.9
2000	154	27.9
2001	143	25.4
2002	192	34.1
2003	177	31.3
2004	203	35.4
2005	167	29.0

The baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy is 1998. Since then, the under-18 conception rate in Barnet has risen by 19.9 per cent. This is at odds with the trend in England as a whole—where the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 11.4 per cent.—and in contrast to areas that have similar population characteristics to Barnet, which have achieved impressive reductions. For example, the under-18 conception rate in Merton has fallen by 33 per cent.

To tackle the wide variation in progress across England, we have issued guidance to local authorities and primary care trusts on the key ingredients of successful local strategies—based on evidence of what works from the local areas which have made most progress. This evidence identified that successful strategies need to have in place

Active engagement of all of the key mainstream delivery partners who have a role in reducing teenage pregnancies—Health, Education, Social Services and Youth Support Services—and the voluntary sector;

A strong senior champion who is accountable for and has taken the lead in driving forward the local strategy;

The availability of a well publicised young people-centred contraceptive and sexual health advice service, with a strong remit to undertake health promotion work, as well as delivering reactive services;

A high priority given to PSHE in schools, with support from the local authority to develop comprehensive programmes of sex and relationships education (SRE) in all schools;

A strong focus on targeted interventions with young people at greatest risk of teenage pregnancy, in particular with Looked After Children;

The availability (and consistent take-up) of SRE training for professionals in partner organisations (such as Connexions Personal Advisers, Youth Workers and Social Workers) working with the most vulnerable young people; and

A well resourced Youth Service, providing thing to do and places to go for young people, with a clear focus on addressing key social issues affecting young people, such as sexual health and substance misuse.

I am asking areas like Barnet—where rates are increasing or progress is slow—to use this guidance to review and update their local strategies. This work is being supported by Government Offices which are providing appropriate support and challenge to each the local area. As part of that approach, we are encouraging all areas that are significantly behind trajectory to consider including teenage pregnancy as a priority in the Local Area Agreements that they are currently negotiating with Government Offices. The aim is to accelerate progress in all areas to the levels of the best. If all areas had performed as well as the top quartile, the national reduction would be 2 per cent. more than twice the reduction actually achieved.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Health Hazards

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of the health implications of siting mobile telephone masts in the vicinity of schools; on what information she bases that assessment; and if she will make a statement. [180668]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's planning policy on the siting of mobile telephone masts is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications (PPG 8).

The advice in PPG 8 is based on the report of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP) which was published in 2000. Under the chairmanship of Sir William Stewart, the group considered concerns about health effects from the use of mobile phones, base stations and transmitters. The group did not recommend that base stations be prohibited on or near school grounds.

In the Government's view if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the exposure guidelines set by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), it is not necessary to consider further the health aspects of the development.

However, Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 on Telecommunications makes clear that, when it is proposed to install, alter or replace a mobile base station near a school or college, operators should consult the school or college concerned before submitting an application for planning permission or prior approval to the local authority. The local planning authority should also consult the relevant bodies, and should take into account any relevant views expressed.

The network operators have agreed to provide schools, on request, with information on the level of intensity of radiofrequency radiation from a base station on or near their premises. In an ongoing audit, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) has now measured exposures around more than 500 base stations to date (www.ofcom.org.uk). In all cases exposures have been below, and mostly thousands of times below, the ICNIRP guidelines.

In January 2004 the National Radiological Protection Board's (now the Health Protection Agency) Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR) carried out a detailed scientific review which was published in a report "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields". AGNIR examined more recent experimental and epidemiological evidence for health effects due to exposure to radiofrequency (RF) transmissions, including those associated with mobile telephone handsets and base stations. It also concluded

> "Exposure levels from living near to mobile base stations are extremely low and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health."

Building Regulations: Carbon Emissions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions her Department has had with colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the *(a)* next set of building regulations and *(b)* long-term impact of moving towards a lower carbon grid; [182600]

(2) how the move towards a lower carbon grid through deployment of new nuclear, renewables and carbon capture and storage will be reflected in the setting of future building regulations; [182599]

(3) when the 2016 Taskforce plans to discuss the relationship between housing and energy policy with respect to heating from low carbon electricity as proposed in the 2007 Energy White Paper; and which heating industry representatives the Taskforce plans to invite to attend the meeting. [182598]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers and officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government have held regular discussions with colleagues from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on a range of strategic energy issues, including the future changes to the Building Regulations and the impact of moving towards a lower carbon grid.

The 2016 Taskforce, whose members already include the Construction Products Association which in turn represent the heating industry, discuss high level strategic issues related to the zero carbon standard, including around energy supply. When appropriate, relevant sectors will be invited to attend the Taskforce meetings to participate in discussions.

Building Regulations already take into account the carbon content of the grid. This is kept under regular review that will be continued as we move towards setting the zero carbon standard in Building Regulations from 2016.

The "Building a Greener Future: policy statement" document published on 23 July 2007 committed us to developing the definition of zero carbon for the purposes of Building Regulations. This will involve a full consultation within a sensible time frame to allow the industry to adjust before the planned changes in 2016.

Census

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress toward a national address register. [178806]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 548W.

East of England Regional Assembly: Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue costs were of the East of England Regional Assembly in each of the last three years. [182897]

John Healey: The information is in the following table.

£

Year ending 31 March	*(a) Capital cost*	*(b) Revenue cost*
2005	31,935	4,387,811
2006	8,217	4,376,394
2007	30,484	4,350,654

Fire Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the proposed regional emergency control rooms for the fire service. [182303]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The FiReControl project has made substantial progress, summarised as follows.

> Nine new designed-for-purpose buildings have been procured. Contracts to build the RCC buildings were let in 2006 and 2007, and construction is progressing to plan. Four buildings have already reached practical completion. A single contract to deliver facilities management services to all nine buildings will be let by CLG in April 2008;
>
> Procuring new technology: CLG let a contract in March 2007 to EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd ("EADS") to deliver common, networked, IT systems for the nine regional control centres;
>
> FiReControl depends on a significant change management programme. Key developments include the establishment of six of the eight regional delivery companies with regional control centre directors and other senior staff appointed in five of them. Guidance has been developed with the fire and rescue services on organisation design, generic staffing model and terms and conditions of employment. These are currently being finalised and implemented by the Fire and Rescue Services in light of local circumstances. Design work to harmonise ways of working, operational procedures, processes and protocols to achieve interoperability between the 46 Fire and Rescue Service and the nine regional control centres has been completed. The alignment of these designs with the EADS solution prior to detailed planning and implementation by each of the Fire and Rescue Services is under way.

Fire Services: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated budgets for the regional emergency control centres for the fire service are; what the original estimated budgets were; and how much was allocated to UK fire services in total for 2007-08. [182386]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The current estimated cost of implementing FiReControl in England is approximately £360 million (in 2007-08 prices). The original estimated cost (at 2004-05 prices) was £264 million in England. We currently expect to fund £19 million in 2007-08 of transitional costs in implementing FiReControl in England. The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies have responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Green Belt: Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of green space is for *(a)* mapping and *(b)* planning purposes. [183020]

Mr. Iain Wright: At present, there is no formal definition of green space used by Communities and Local Government for either mapping or planning purposes. Although open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground, this narrow definition is not considered appropriate for dealing with the complete range of open spaces, including green spaces, that exist and the variety of functions they can fulfil.

The Government's planning policies on open space are set out in planning policy guidance note 17 (PPG17) "Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation" (2002). PPG17 makes clear that these policies should be applied to all types of open space that have public value. An illustrative typology of open spaces which may be of public value, which includes a variety of different types of green space, is included in the annexe to PPG17. The Department will shortly be developing a green space database web resource that will provide information on green space as maps.

Heating: Standards

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2047W, on heating: standards, when she expects to publish the Building Regulations review on the safety of hot water systems in homes. [178901]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect to launch a full public consultation on the draft amendments to part G of the building regulations and the revised supporting guidance in spring 2008 with a view to fully implementing the new requirements in April 2009.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1526W, on home information packs, if she will place in the Library copies of those pages of the Lenders' Handbook which list the mortgage lenders' policies on the acceptance of personal searches. [178693]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Council of Mortgage Lenders' Handbook is not a published document, but is available at www.cml.org.uk

Home Information Packs: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of home information packs commissioned on properties in the London borough of Bexley since such packs were introduced. [180905]

Caroline Flint: No such estimate has been made.

Homelessness: Ex-servicemen

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households have been accepted as being in priority need under the category of "A person who is vulnerable as a result of having been a member of Her Majesty's regular naval, military or air forces" in each year since its introduction in the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002. [181106]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' action under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level and includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation.

The yearly total number of households accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, as well as those having a priority need that is primarily due to their being vulnerable as a result of having served in HM forces, is shown in the following table.

Year	*Total acceptances*	*Of which primary priority need ex-HM forces*
2003/04	135,430	104
2004/05	120,860	95
2005/06	93,980	73
2006/07	73,360	53

It is important to note that some former HM forces personnel accepted as homeless may be included in other primary priority need categories (e.g. when the household includes dependent children), and so will not feature in the figures above. Tables showing acceptances broken down by the main priority need categories are published quarterly in the Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, and are placed in the House Library.

Housing Statistics 2007

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the Housing Statistics for 2007. [178813]

Mr. Iain Wright: "Housing Statistics 2007" is due to be published on 7 February 2008.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses with *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms, *(d)* four bedrooms and *(e)* five bedrooms or more have been built in each of the last 10 years. [176992]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proportions of new build completions in England by number of bedrooms and dwelling type are in the following table. The information is presented as proportions rather than absolute numbers because number of bedrooms and dwelling type is collected centrally for only about half the new build activity.

Percentage

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Houses										
1 bedroom	1	1	1	1	[1]	1	[1]	[1]	[1]	
2 bedrooms	19	18	17	15	11	10	9	8	8	8
3 bedrooms	37	35	34	32	28	29	28	27	26	25
4 or more	28	30	31	32	37	34	30	23	20	20
Flats										
1 bedroom	6	6	6	6	6	6	8	10	10	11
2 bedrooms	7	9	10	12	15	19	24	30	35	35
3 bedrooms	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
4 or more										
Houses and flats										
1 bedroom	7	7	7	7	7	6	8	10	10	11
2 bedrooms	27	27	26	27	25	29	33	38	42	42
3 bedrooms	38	36	35	34	31	30	29	28	27	27
4 or more	28	30	32	32	37	35	30	23	21	20
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total completions	149,555	140,706	142,046	133,255	129,866	137,739	143,958	155,893	163,398	167,577

[1] zero or less than 0.5 per cent.

Source:

National House Building Council and P2 house building return from local authorities.

Housing: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government received in capital receipts from housing-related asset sales *(a)* in total and *(b)* from right-to-buy sales from each London borough in 2005-06. [179334]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table indicates the amount that each London borough, through the process of pooling—the mechanism by which all local authority housing capital receipts are recycled for investment—paid to the Secretary of State out of its receipts arising from the sales in 2005-06 of its housing land. It is currently not possible for the equivalent information to be provided separately for the authorities' Right to Buy (RTB) receipts, other than at disproportionate cost, although the vast majority of pooled receipts are RTB receipts.

Authority	*Amount of 2005-06 receipts pooled (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	7,279,477.82
Barnet	2,219,658.71
Bexley	59,494.34
Brent	5,429,513.25
Bromley	44,921.64
Camden	14,568,265.25
Croydon	[1]3,401,304.20
Ealing	3,803,426.54
Enfield	5,006,055.76
Greenwich	9,424,531.40
Hackney	[1]15,287,746.48
Hammersmith and Fulham	10,851,088.14
Haringey	17,468,536.16
Harrow	3,461,781.46
Havering	5,101,710.10
Hillingdon	6,976,263.95
Hounslow	3,720,159.93
Islington	23,772,005.71
Kensington and Chelsea	2,167,877.18
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,638,774.07
Lambeth	[1]21,998,515.45
Lewisham	21,590,177.83
London (City of)	[1]150,334.97
Merton	4,189,867.41
Newham	16,047,318.73
Redbridge	4,552,107.00
Richmond-upon-Thames	69,836.77
Southwark	[1]54,586,305.06
Sutton	1,083,309.30
Tower Hamlets	32,138,314.54
Waltham Forest	4,436,539.31
Wandsworth	10,218,059.94
Westminster	6,191,108.32
Total	[1]318,934,386.72

[1] The figures for these five authorities are provisional, so the total figure is provisional as well.

Housing: Low Incomes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social landlords have not signed up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management. [183215]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over 380 landlords have signed the Respect Standard covering around 70 per cent. of all social housing stock in England. Approximately 1,620 social landlords in England have not signed up to the Respect Standard which comprise mostly of small housing associations.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing association tenants there are in England; how many have the *(a)* full and *(b)* preserved right to buy; and how many are likely to qualify for the right to acquire scheme. [183251]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 1.873 million housing association tenants in England. Approximately 28,000 (1.5 per cent.) are secure tenants of non-charitable housing associations who have *(a)* the right to buy. Another 1 million tenants (53 per cent.), who transferred with their homes from local authorities since 1988, have retained *(b)* a preserved right to buy.

In addition, over 188,000 housing association tenants (10 per cent.) may qualify for the right to acquire because their homes have been built with public funds since 1 April 1997.

Some of the tenants of the 871,241 homes which have transferred from local authorities to housing associations since 1 April 1997 may also qualify for the right to acquire scheme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Brian Pomery review of shared equity and *(b)* evaluation of Social HomeBuy scheme research completed in December 2007. [183258]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government appointed Brian Pomery to help them follow up the shared equity task force report and advise on ways to develop the private sector shared equity market. The work is ongoing.

The evaluation report of the Social HomeBuy scheme is expected shortly and will be published in due course.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned yearly cost to the public purse is of the new *(a)* Infrastructure Planning Commission and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency. [182563]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs of the Homes and Communities Agency are set out in the Housing and Regeneration Bill impact assessment. This states that the one-off cost of setting up the Homes and Communities Agency will be £20 million over three years and the average annual cost of the Agency from 2009 will be approximately £17 million per annum. However, the average annual benefit to the public purse anticipated for the period 2007-08 to 2013-14 is £193.7 million per annum. This will be gained from more streamlined working, simpler delivery chains, a more strategic approach to operations, a single identity of a national housing and regeneration agency, harnessing scarce skills and increased negotiating skills for procurement.

The costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission are set out in the Planning Bill impact assessment. This states that the one-off cost of setting up the IPC will be £5 million. Our intention is that the administrative running costs of the IPC will be met through fees from applicants, and not from the public purse. The fact that the IPC will examine cases instead of Ministers will mean savings to central Government of £0.6 million per annum and to the Planning Inspectorate of £0.3 million per annum.

INTERREG Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department is playing in the implementation of the European Union's *(a)* INTERREG IVA, *(b)* INTERREG IVB and *(c)* INTERREG IVC programmes; and what form of control system is being put in place to monitor the outcomes for each. [182553]

John Healey: My Department has been involved in the development of all three INTERREG programmes through leading the UK representation on working groups overseeing their preparation and agreeing the priorities.

The draft IVA programmes were submitted to the European Commission in mid-November and should be implemented by May 2008.

The IVB and IVC programmes have been approved. My Department's officials, with their regional colleagues, are representatives on the Monitoring and Steering Committees which decide the content and direction of the programmes as well as project selection.

The Managing, Certifying and Audit Authorities for each of these programmes are responsible for ensuring that the management and control arrangements comply with European Commission regulations. None of these authorities are based in the UK.

Leadership Centre for Local Government: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was provided by the public purse to the Leadership Centre for Local Government in each year since its creation; and what the annual budget is for the next three years. [182579]

John Healey: The Leadership Centre for local government was set up in July 2004 following extensive discussion with the Local Government Association and other local government bodies to improve the quality of leadership in local government. The centre was paid £2 million in 2004-05, £4.465 million in 2005-06, £3.267 million in 2006-07 and £3.267 million in 2007-08.

For the CSR07 spending round (2008-11), £2 million annually has been set aside to continue the work of the Leadership Centre.

Local Authorities: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the processing of personal data outside the European Economic Area, either directly or via contractors. [182594]

John Healey: It is the responsibility of local authorities to seek their own advice, including advice from the Information Commissioner and his website, regarding their legitimate processing of personal data. The Information Commissioner provides detailed guidance on the processing of personal data outside the European Economic Area, either directly or via contractors, in two pieces of guidance on his website: 'International Transfers of Personal Data'

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_application/generic_guidance_international_transfers_v2.pdf

and 'The Eighth Data Protection Principle and international data transfers'

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/detailed_specialist_guides/international_transfers_legal_guidance_v2.0_300606.pdf

The Department does not directly provide guidance to local authorities on issues concerning the Data Protection Act 1998.

Local Authorities: Disclosure of Information

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 147W, on local authorities: disclosure of information, if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to the regional assemblies in March 2006. [182885]

John Healey: I have arranged for copies of 'Guidance on the General Principles of Designation of Voluntary Regional Assemblies', issued in March 2006, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to Government policy on local government finance will follow from the signing of the new Central-Local concordat. [182587]

John Healey: The concordat sets out the areas we will seek to develop with local government, and such work is under way. It reaffirms our commitment to deliver greater flexibility for local authorities to make decisions on their own funding priorities, and over the next three years we are moving around £5.6 billion into general grants which are not ring-fenced. We have undertaken to work with local government to provide greater clarity and transparency for local people on the levels of public funding going into local areas, and we have delivered the first three-year settlement for each council.

Local Government Finance: Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1152W, on local government finance: participation, (1) whether the local ballots would be binding on the local authority under her proposals; and whether there would be a threshold number of ballots above which a decision would be valid; [182057]

(2) who would take the decision on whether to ballot a local community on spending decisions under her proposals. [182058]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1152W.

Local Government: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the terms of reference for the boundary committee review of local government structures in Devon; and when she expects the review to be completed. [183090]

John Healey: We intend shortly to issue our request to the boundary committee to advise, by a date specified in the request, on whether for Exeter city and the remaining Devon county area there could be an alternative unitary solution.

Local Government: Planning

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local government enforcement orders on planning issues have been successfully enforced since 1996. [183091]

Mr. Iain Wright: Statistical information on different types of enforcement action by local planning authorities is published in "Development Control Statistics: England 2006/2007", available on the Department's website

www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningstatistics/developmentcontrolstatistics/.

However, we do not hold centrally or publish information about the outcomes of such action. The Planning Inspectorate publish information about appeals against enforcement notices and their outcomes on their website.

www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councillors each of the restructured local authorities will have; and how many councillors in total across both tiers the council areas will have in each case. [182080]

John Healey: The number of councillors if restructuring is implemented, in the five areas for which draft Implementation Orders have been laid before Parliament, is as follows.

Local authority	*Number of councillors 1 April 2009*
Cornwall county	82
Durham county	126
Northumberland county	67
Shropshire county	48
Wiltshire county	49
Grand total	372

A new unitary council's number of councillors may change at the first election held after the Boundary Committee has undertaken a review of the council's electoral arrangements.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities undergoing restructuring will have elections for the new council in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and in which year in each case parish council elections will take place. [182081]

John Healey: Under restructuring orders, which we have laid before the House, the first elections to the new unitary authorities will be in 2008, in the case of the unitary County Durham and Northumberland councils, and in 2009, in the case of the new unitary Cornwall, Shropshire and Wiltshire councils. In all five cases, subsequent elections will be in 2013.

Parish elections in those areas will be held in future on the same cycle as elections for the new unitary councils. As a result some parishes will hold elections in 2009, but the majority will be moved from 2011 to 2013.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average number of *(a)* national priority targets and *(b)* local improvement targets that local area agreements will contain. [182085]

John Healey: No estimate has been made of the average number of *(a)* national priority targets and *(b)* local improvement targets in local area agreements (LAAs). Section 106 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides all targets in an LAA are local improvement targets. Up to 35 local improvement targets will be designated by the Secretary of State following negotiation between a local area and the relevant Government Office.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will be set local improvement targets via the new *(a)* local area agreements and *(b)* multi-area agreements. [182573]

John Healey: Upper-tier and unitary local authorities will be required to determine local improvement targets when directed by the Secretary of State to prepare a local area agreement ("LAA") under section 106 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Once they have been determined in a draft LAA, the LAA will be submitted to the Secretary of State for her approval in accordance with section 107 of that Act. It is expected that all such authorities will therefore set local improvement targets in LAAs.

Unlike LAAs, multi-area agreements do not have a statutory basis. Any outcomes in an MAA are not local improvement targets, unless they are drawn from the relevant LAAs.

Maps: Green Belt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 552W, on maps: green belt, what the timetable is for incorporating the green belt digital data from local authorities into the Maps on Tap database. [182902]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect to complete the collection of Green Belt digital (boundary) data from local authorities in April and will incorporate this into departmental databases shortly after.

Mortgages: First Time Buyers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first-time buyers in England took out mortgages of 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property in the most recent period for which figures are available. [183221]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage are available from the regulated mortgage survey which is supplied to the Department by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. As the survey is a sample, data on the number of FTBs for England are unavailable; however, we can derive proportions.

For 2006, based on figures from the regulated mortgage survey, the Department estimates that 8.3 per cent. of mortgages to first-time buyers (excluding sitting tenants) in England were for 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to co-ordinate best practice in the implementation of the national licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. [182439]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has funded Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) to support local housing authorities in England and Wales in implementing mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). LACORS issues guidance and advice, and co-ordinates and disseminates best practice in relation to regulation of private-sector housing.

Parish Councils: Cost-Effectiveness

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to abolish grants for best-value compliance to parish councils. [182082]

John Healey: Section 136 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 removes parish councils from the duty of best value. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to the 2007 Act removes the Secretary of State's power to make grants to parish councils in respect of their costs of complying with best value. We intend to commence both provisions with effect from 1 April 2008.

Parking: Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* direct or *(b)* encourage local planning authorities to revise local plan policies on parking standards in the light of the changes in planning policy statement 3 and the repeal of Planning Policy Guidance 3. [183257]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3) does not prescribe car parking standards for new residential development. Rather, it introduces a more flexible approach to the local provision of car parking by giving local planning authorities the ability to set their own residential parking policies, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

The policies in PPS3, including that relating to car parking provision for new residential development, should be taken into account by local planning authorities in the preparation of their local development frameworks. They should also be regarded as material considerations in the determining of planning applications for new housing development which may supersede the policies in existing development plans.

Planning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations the Sustainable Development Commission has made to her Department on *(a)* the Planning Bill and *(b)* the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [182562]

John Healey: The Sustainable Development Commission responded to consultation on the Planning White Paper in August last year.

My Department maintains an ongoing dialogue with the Sustainable Development Commission in its role as Government's independent adviser on sustainable development.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed national policy statements will over-ride provisions on existing planning policy *(a)* guidance note/planning policy *(b)* statement. [183248]

Mr. Iain Wright: National policy statements will provide the national policy framework for development consents for nationally significant infrastructure projects. They will incorporate relevant elements of town and country planning policy and other relevant Government policies.

Some national policy statements will also be relevant to smaller infrastructure projects which require town and country planning permission. National policy statements will feed through into regional spatial strategies and local development plans in relation to those categories of infrastructure, alongside other aspects of planning policy.

Planning: Public Participation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 148-49W, on planning: public participation, if she will place in the Library a copy of each substantive response to the Planning White Paper, excluding campaign write-in submissions. [182811]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of the substantive responses listed in "Planning White Paper Consultation: Government response to consultation replies" have not been placed in the Library because of the volume we received. They are available for inspection at the Department.

Planning: Retail Trade

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 149W, on planning: retail trade, what representations she has received from supermarkets on the revision of Planning Policy Statement 6 since May 2007. [182918]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 149W, which set out the written representations the Secretary of State (or her officials) has had from supermarkets up to 15 June 2007.

Since then, the Secretary of State (or her officials) has received written representations from the following supermarkets in relation to the proposed revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6, as announced in the Planning White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" which was published in May 2007:

Asda*

John Lewis Partnership/Waitrose*

Lidl

Marks and Spencer

Musgrave GB

Tesco

Supermarkets which have asked that their representations remain confidential are indicated by "*". Copies of other representations have been placed in the Library of the House.

Public Libraries: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Public Library Service Standards will be included in the new national indicator set. [182087]

John Healey: The National Indicator Set was announced on 11 October 2007 and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Regeneration: Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt), of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 554-5W, on regeneration: Greater Manchester, what the terms of reference are for the review of regeneration alternatives to the regional casino in Manchester; and whether the review will consider *(a)* the option of eight small and eight large casinos and *(b)* the effect of the increase in the number of casinos authorised under the Gaming Act 1968 prior to the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. [182164]

John Healey: In July, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that the Government would look at whether deprived areas could be equally well served by forms of regeneration other than the development of regional casinos.

While Manchester will clearly have an interest in the findings of the review, the response is not specific to alternatives to a regional casino in Manchester; it applies to deprived areas more broadly.

The Review did not look at the case of the small or large casinos or consider the Gambling Act more generally. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is currently considering next steps on casino policy under the Gambling Act 2005, and will make an announcement to Parliament in due course.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 554-5W, on regeneration: Greater Manchester, and to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on casinos, whether the review of regeneration alternatives to regional casinos has received evidence from representatives of *(a)* Anschutz Entertainment Group, *(b)* its associated companies and *(c)* business partners. [182236]

John Healey: In July the Prime Minister said that the Government would consider the question of whether deprived areas could be equally well served by forms of regeneration other than the development of regional casinos. While Manchester will clearly have an interest in the findings of the review, the response is not specific to alternatives to a regional casino in Manchester; it applies to deprived areas more broadly.

There is no record that the Review received any evidence from Anschutz Entertainment Group or from any party known to me to be its associated company or business partner. When the Review is published it will list the evidence sources that have been referenced.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1157-8W, on regional planning and development, whether a Secretary of State's decision to require the draft Local Area Agreement to be amended may be imposed on local councils against their advice. [182059]

John Healey: Section 107(1) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 allows the Secretary of State to require the amendment of a draft Local Area Agreement, but does not specify the considerations that might affect such a decision.

The Government Office will be expected to resolve any difficulties earlier in the negotiation, reducing the likelihood that the draft LAA will need to be redrafted. This is emphasised in sections 4.17 to 4.18 of the draft statutory guidance: "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities", available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance

Sheltered Housing: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the housing department of Birmingham city council on the impact of national rules governing the Supporting People programme on local decision-making in respect of sheltered accommodation schemes. [182413]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no record of any representation having been made to Communities and Local Government from the Housing Department of Birmingham city council about the impact of national rules governing the Supporting People programme on local decision-making in respect of sheltered accommodation schemes.

Sheltered Housing: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding was made available to local authorities for sheltered accommodation with a residential warden in each of the last five years; [172020]

(2) what the Government's policy is on *(a)* the removal of residential wardens and *(b)* replacement of residential wardens by mobile wardens in relation to sheltered accommodation. [172021]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities provide funding for housing-related support services such as those included in sheltered housing accommodation through the Supporting People programme grants allocated to them by the Government. Supporting People is a grant programme administered through top-tier authorities which enables over 1 million vulnerable people each year to live independently in their homes and communities.

However, decisions about how support services for sheltered housing are provided and how the allocated grant funding is used are made by each local authority, in accordance with their local needs and priorities and as identified in their Supporting People five-year strategies.

The Supporting People funding allocated to local authorities relates to the total Supporting People grant covering all types of housing by related support, not just sheltered housing with a residential warden. Therefore, figures are not collected which would show funding for sheltered accommodation with a residential warden in each of the last five years.

As mentioned decisions on how much of the total allocation is spent on sheltered housing with a residential warden or any other kind of support services are for local authorities to make.

As part of its national affordable housing programme, the Housing Corporation has funded through social housing grant accommodation designated or designed for older people, but, as with Supporting People grant, does not specify how support services should be delivered within specially designated or designed housing for older people, and is therefore unable to identify how many of these will have a residential warden.

Supporting People Programme

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the extent of the financial assessment which should be undertaken when considering whether individuals receiving long-term support under the Supporting People programme are eligible to pay charges; and whether individuals' debts and monthly outgoings should be taken into account. [182185]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The Department has issued guidance ("Supporting People (England) Directions 2007/08") which states that each administrating authority is required to set out in its Supporting People strategy the rules for charging of service recipients, which must include:

(i) the circumstances in which there is to be relief from charges;

(ii) the process for making an application for relief

(iii) the rules for determining the relevant date of application; and

(iv) details of the review mechanism which is to apply where a service recipient disputes any decision under the charging rules.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many court cases there have been since April 2007, where private tenants have been seeking to enforce their right to have their tenancy deposit protected under the provisions in the Housing Act 2004. [182575]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unitary Councils

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the minimum size of a new unitary council, in terms of *(a)* resident population and *(b)* number of households, under her plans for local government restructuring. [182592]

John Healey: The criteria against which we judge unitary proposals do not involve any criterion about the size of a council's population or the number of households in its area.

Unitary Councils: Elections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the dates will be for the next set of elections for each of the new unitary councils. [182577]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) today (PQ182081).

Vacant Land

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land was designated as green space in new housing development plans *(a)* between 1996 and 2006, *(b)* between 1986 and 1996 and *(c)* in each of the last five years. [182611]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on how much land has been planted as green space is not held centrally.

Wardens

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 685W, on wardens, what central funding has been provided to fund neighbourhood warden schemes, further to the pledge in the Respect Action Plan. [183158]

John Healey: For 2006-07 and 2007-08 £92.9 million of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund was paid through the local area agreement (LAA) grant. Under LAAs local authorities and their partners have flexibility to decide how they spend their funds to deliver agreed LAA outcomes.

From 2008-09 onwards £67.1 million of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund will be paid as a contribution to the new area-based grant, a non ring-fenced general grant for local authorities. This will provide local authorities with even greater flexibility over how they spend their funding. The fund has been allocated to authorities in recognition of their need to improve public satisfaction with local areas which could include promoting warden schemes. However, it will be up to individual authorities to decide how they spend their area-based grant allocations.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in receipt of working neighbourhood funding previously did not receive neighbourhood renewal funding. [182566]

John Healey: There are five local authorities which previously did not qualify for neighbourhood renewal funding but which have qualified for allocations under the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). These are as follows:

Blyth Valley;
Chesterfield;
Copeland;
Thanet; and
West Somerset.

HEALTH

Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of assault there were against members of staff from the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust in 2007; and what the prosecution rates were in these cases. [179626]

Ann Keen: Data on reported physical assaults are collected each year for the period 1 April to 31 March.

The number of reported physical assaults against staff at Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS trust for the period 2006-07 was 137.

Information on prosecution rates in these cases is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Abortion: Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 984W, on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1979-80, for what reasons two files were destroyed; what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title of these files was; what criteria are used by his Department on reviewing files; and if he will make a statement. [182666]

Dawn Primarolo: File E/A0223/251/vB—"Draft and Notes and clauses—Abortion Amendment Bill" was destroyed in 2005. File E/A0223/191—"Abortion Act 1967 John Corrie's Abortion Amendment Bill" was destroyed in 2004. Both files were destroyed following a second review of the contents, 25 years after the files were started.

The criteria used in respect of these files were set out in the Manual of Records Administration published by the then Public Record Office.

Ambulance Services: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve emergency ambulance services in North Devon. [183084]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs), as the local headquarters of the national health service, and primary care trusts, as commissioners, to ensure that strategies for improving performance are delivered by ambulance trusts.

The Department, via the Recovery and Support Unit discusses performance at trust level with SHAs to ensure that SHAs work with local organisations to address performance issues, and if appropriate with support from the National Ambulance Performance Implementation Lead. However, performance is measured across the trust as a whole.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national targets exist for the handover times from ambulances to accident and emergency departments. [181073]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental guidance makes clear that in normal operational circumstances handovers should take no longer than 15 minutes. This is guidance, not a target or a standard. While the Department recognises there may be periods when operational pressures mean this is not always possible, trusts should ensure their escalation plans include robust action to manage their handovers.

Anaesthetics: Training

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many anaesthetic training posts in categories *(a)* ST1, *(b)* ST2, *(c)* ST3 and *(d)* SPR will be vacant on the first Wednesday of February 2008 in (i) England, (ii) London and (iii) Kent, Surrey and Sussex. [181171]

Ann Keen: This information is not collated centrally.

Postgraduate deaneries are now recruiting doctors to take up specialty training programmes from August 2008. Information regarding the numbers of posts being appointed to can be found on the Modernising Medical Careers website at

www.mmc.nhs.uk.

Bournemouth and Christchurch Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 986W, on Bournemouth and Christchurch primary care trust: finance to my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth, East, for which other trusts specialist top-up payments have been discontinued in 2008-09; and how much each trust received in such payments in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2006-07. [180837]

Mr. Bradshaw: Specialist top-ups are payable across nine areas of treatment. In 2007-08, all hospitals were eligible for specialist top-ups when they had provided these services. In 2008-09, all providers are still eligible for specialist top-ups for non-specialised child-related, colorectal and orthopaedic activity. The list of providers eligible for all other specialist top-ups was published within the national tariff on 13 December 2007. Copies of the list have been placed in the Library.

In addition, strategic health authorities have the flexibility to agree the payment of specialist top-ups to a wider range of providers than those on the list, when a commissioner can make a compelling case for inclusion.

Data are not collected centrally on how much each trust received in specialist top-ups.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 988-89W, on breast cancer screening, which primary care trust has responsibility for each breast cancer unit. [180836]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data on how breast cancer units correspond to primary care trusts.

Cancer: Health Education

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the use and development by the NHS of the tool initiated by Cancer Research UK to assess the level of patient awareness of cancer symptoms will cost the public purse. [181192]

Ann Keen: Cancer Research UK is funding the development of the modular tool to assess levels of awareness of cancer risk factors and symptoms. The tool is expected to be available in the autumn 2008.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 997-98W, on cancer: health services, if he will break down the missed diagnoses of cancer incidents by reason, including delay, failure to diagnose and problems with tests or scans. [180838]

Ann Keen: The breakdown of reports of patient safety incidents on the National Reporting and Learning System of England and Wales is shown in the following table.

Incident category—level 1	*Incident category—level 2*	*October 2005 to September 2006*	*October 2006 to September 2007*
Clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments)	Diagnosis—delay/failure to	130	169
	Diagnosis—wrong	45	37
	Scans/X-rays/specimens—inadequate/incomplete	33	51
	Scans/X-rays/specimens—mislabelled/unlabelled	60	84
	Scans/X-rays/specimens—missing	38	34
	Tests—failure/delay to undertake	53	69
Documentation (including records, identification)	Scans/X-rays/specimens—mislabelled/unlabelled	20	13
	Scans/X-rays/specimens—missing	6	3
Implementation of care and ongoing monitoring/review	Delay/failure in recognising complication of treatment	13	9
	Tests—failure/delay to undertake	20	10
Infection control incident	Diagnosis—delay/failure to	1	2
	Diagnosis—wrong	0	1
Treatment, procedure	Delay/failure in recognising complication of treatment	14	20
Total		433	502

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public funding has been made available for extending the 31-day standard target to all cancer patients; and what the expected total cost is of such an extension. [181194]

Ann Keen: An impact assessment was published at the same time as the new Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) on 3 December 2007. A copy of the CRS Impact Assessment is available at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_081004

and is also available in the Library.

A breakdown of estimated additional costs associated with the extension of the 31-day standard is detailed in the following table.

Cost of 31-day standard for all cancer treatments

Financial year	*Estimate for annual costs (£ million)*
2008-09	2.1
2009-10	4.3
2010-11	6.4
2011-12	6.4
2012-13	6.4
2013-14	6.4
2014-15	6.4
2015-16	6.4
2016-17	6.4
2017-18	6.4

Funding for the extension of the 31-day standard is not separately identified in allocations to the national health service. Primary care trusts are funded to meet the health care needs of their populations, which will include the provision of cancer services.

Carbon Monoxide

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to raise awareness of medical practitioners of the risks to health of carbon monoxide and the symptoms, diagnosis and consequences of carbon monoxide poisoning. [182673]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is committed to helping to prevent deaths and injuries caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and raise awareness of the dangers of CO poisoning among the public and medical profession. A range of specific actions to achieve this have been and continue to be taken, many of which are specific to medical practitioners.

In his winter update issued in November 2007, which is sent to all doctors registered with the General Medical Council in England, the chief medical officer (CMO), Liam Donaldson, provides a range of advice on diagnosis of CO poisoning, including the use of neurological examination.

This builds on two previous publications, the advice of which is still current: the CMO winter 2005 update and the CMO and chief nursing officer (CNO) joint letter issued in 2002. The CMO's update includes recognition of the symptoms of CO poisoning, key questions to ask in diagnosis, appropriate tests and treatment. The CMO/CNO letter, distributed to community nurses, midwives, health visitors and general practitioners, provides detailed advice on recognising the symptoms of CO poisoning and specific advice about investigations and testing techniques.

In addition, the Department has recently called for research to investigate the incidence of CO poisoning, health outcomes and patients' experience following exposure, which will help inform the development of appropriate policy.

The Department also provides funding for leading national voluntary organisations through the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants, which helps in their work in raising awareness about the dangers of CO with both the public and health professionals and in supporting victims and providing information on how to prevent poisoning.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Department is currently looking at options for new awareness-raising initiatives as well as reviewing activities in which it is already engaged.

Community Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on community nurses, how many more community matrons the local intelligence suggests there are; and what revised estimate he has made of total numbers. [181015]

Ann Keen: Strategic health authorities have suggested that the actual figure for community matrons may be higher than the official figure shown in the national health service work force census. The latest official figure still stands at 366 (351 full-time equivalent) as shown in the 2006 NHS work force census. The 2007 census is due to be published in mid-March 2008, and will provide a more up to date figure.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 5.5 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, what the value of resources released for frontline activity as a result of the streamlining of NHS leadership was, broken down by strategic health authority. [178269]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is provided in the following table. This gives a total figure in 2006-07 by strategic health authority (SHA) economy for each SHA and its primary care trusts.

2006-07 Commissioning a patient led national health service savings

	£000
North East SHA	357
North West SHA	18,223
Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	17,211
East Midlands SHA	6,034
West Midlands SHA	14,006
East of England SHA	2,201
London SHA	15,237
South East Coast SHA	7278
South Central SHA	2020
South West SHA	5180
Total	87,747

Source:
Department of Health financial returns

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 6.4 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, if he will break down his Department's £128 million revenue underspend on central programmes by programme; and what the reasons were for the underspend on each programme. [178273]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table gives a breakdown of the Department's £128 million revenue underspend as stated in paragraph 6.4 of the 2006-07 Resource Accounts.

Budget	*£ million*	*£ million*	*Reasons for under/(over)spend*
Demand Led			
European Economic Area (health costs of United Kingdom citizens abroad)	53	—	—
Welfare Foods	8	—	—
Family Health Services Dentistry	4	—	—
Pharmacy	-23	—	—
Total Demand Led budgets		42	Demand led budgets—difficult to accurately predict volume of activity/cost

Budget	*£ million*	*£ million*	*Reasons for under/(over) spend*
Technical/Provisions			
2005-06 Accounting Adjustments	20		As part of the year end review of balance sheet codes a number of adjustments were made. These included the reduction to zero of some creditors no longer required in respect of Deposits and Advances, £3.6 million, and health authority impairments £10.9 million. In addition following a review of Partnership for Health published accounts a credit of £5.750 million was made to expenditure in respect of an investment in Partnerships for Health charged incorrectly to operating expenditure in 2005-06
Skipton Fund (Hepatitis C compensation claims)	14		Level of provisions dependent upon expected level of claims, which was lower than forecast
Ex-Regional Health Authority Retirements	11		Review of methodology and assumptions for calculating provisions resulted in an underspend against budget
National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group	7		Review of accounting methodology to bring treatment in line with National Health Service resulted in an underspend against budget
English National Board provisions	4		Review of methodology and assumptions for calculating provisions resulted in an underspend against budget
Injury Benefits	-69		Review of methodology and assumptions for calculating provisions resulted in an overspend against budget
		-13	
Other Underspends			
Arms Length Bodies	63		Underspend due to, in the main, revision of NHS Blood and Transplant corporate strategy, and lower than expected requirements for transition costs funding
Payment by Results	6		
Personal Social Services (PSS) Regulation	5		£2.5 million due to delays in expansion of domiciliary workers and £2.5 million on various other social care budgets
Healthy Choices	5		Replanning of website development activity
Communications	4		Value for money achieved through cheaper advertising
Individual Budget Pilots	2		Replanning of new PSS Grant in year
Other underspends	14		Several small variances on many small budgets including £1.5 million arising from exchange rate movements on World Health Organisation budget. £1 million on PSS Grants budgets (dependent upon receipt of valid invoices)
		99	
Total Central Programme Underspend		128	

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy for junior doctors. [179915]

Ann Keen: The choice facing us and the medical profession is whether we accept international medical graduates displacing large numbers of United Kingdom graduates, preventing them from obtaining postgraduate training, or whether we maximise the opportunities for UK medical graduates and the taxpayers' investment in them.

Our preference is to give priority to UK and European economic area medical graduates. We were disappointed with the Court of Appeal judgment which ruled that the Department's guidance which had this effect was unlawful.

We have been given expedited leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the Appeal Court judgment. The House of Lords will hear our appeal on 28 February and we continue to examine ways to prioritise specialty training places for UK graduates.

Dermatology

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on trends in prevalence of skin disease and skin-related illnesses, excluding skin cancer. [181292]

Ann Keen: The Department has no specific information on trends in the prevalence of skin disease and skin-related illnesses.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to quantify the annual productivity losses associated with members of the workforce suffering from skin-related illnesses in the latest year for which figures are available. [181294]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the annual productivity losses associated with those members of the workforce living with skin-related illnesses.

Doctors: Career Structure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to improve the Medical Training Application System in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [179627]

Ann Keen: The Medical Training Application System (MTAS) was closed to applicants for specialist training posts in May 2007, although it remained accessible to deaneries after that time for monitoring and statistical purposes. This followed two security breaches to the system.

Improvements were then made to the security, following which the Communications Electronic Security Group, the national technical authority for information assurance, confirmed that appropriate and sufficiently comprehensive action had been taken.

A national information technology-based (IT) application system is used for applications to the foundation programme for junior doctors. It was used for recruitment in 2007 and is being used again this year.

Decisions about whether a national IT-based system should be used for recruitment to specialty training for junior doctors will be the subject of extensive discussion with the medical profession and other key stakeholders.

Fractures

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of fracture liaison services in ensuring patient compliance with measures to prevent secondary fracture. [180638]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of fracture liaison services in ensuring patient compliance with measures to prevent secondary fracture.

General Practitioners: Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to improve the GP to patient ratio in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [179624]

Ann Keen: Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Havering PCT have both been identified as being among the 25 per cent. of PCTs with poorest provision, and will therefore receive additional investment from the £250 million access fund for new general practitioner (GP) practices and a GP-led health centre. These new services will increase capacity in the places that need it most and offer a range of innovative services such as extended opening hours and wider practice boundaries.

Redbridge PCT is ranked 57th nationally, and therefore falls outside the 25 per cent. Like every PCT, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, and Havering will be procuring one new GP-led health centre each.

General Practitioners: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs were in practice in the Beverley and Holderness constituency in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [180781]

Ann Keen: The following table shows general medical practitioners (GMPs) (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] by specified area, as at 1997 to 2006.

GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] by specified area, as at 1997 to 2006

Number (headcount)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
General practitioners (GPs)[1]	309	307	307	306	315	313	332	325	344	346
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	168	171	186	179	190	190
Hull PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	147	142	146	146	154	156
East Riding and Hull HA	309	307	307	306	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = data not available

[1] GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others

Notes:

1. Data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06
2. Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years.
3. Beverley and Holderness constituency is contained within East Riding of Yorkshire PCT and previously to this East Riding and Hull HA
4. Hull PCT has been added for comparability purposes

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Work force planning is a matter for local national health service organisations as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health communities. The NHS Plan target of 2,000 more GPs over the 1999 baseline was achieved in 2004. There are now more GPs in the NHS than ever before. This reflects the Government's record investment in primary care and commitment to expanding the GP work force.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what date his Department expects to have collected data from NHS trusts on their completion of the self-assessment checklist on privacy and dignity issued by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in December 2007; [180854]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the full report of focus groups and interviews which is summarised on page 7 of "Privacy and Dignity—the elimination of mixed sex accommodation", issued by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in December 2007. [180855]

Ann Keen: Ensuring patients' dignity and privacy while they are in hospital is very important. The operating framework for 2008-09 confirms mixed-sex accommodation as a local priority. It requires primary care trusts to review performance with all trusts, and to agree, publish and implement stretched local plans to deliver improvements.

The Government fully support the good practice guide produced by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. It provides practical information and examples of good practice to help trusts make best use of facilities in order to ensure patients are treated with the utmost privacy and dignity. The guidance is designed to be used internally within trusts and there are no plans to centrally collect or publish these data.

The report of focus groups and interviews is currently being prepared for publication by Ipsos MORI. It will be available during February and will be placed in the Library at that point.

Hospital Wards: Mobile Phones

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has taken advice on the application of the Children Act 2004 and the Human Rights Act 1998 to the use of mobile telephones with cameras in hospital wards. [182893]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department issued revised good practice guidance to the national health service on the use of mobile telephones on health care premises in May 2007. The revised guidance offers a legal framework and an evidence base for trusts to use in compiling their own policy on the use of mobile phones on health care premises and makes specific reference to the provisions of the Children Act 2004 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The guidance entitled "Using mobile phones in NHS hospitals" is available in the Library and is also on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074396

Guidance to the NHS on the use of mobile telephones on health care premises is kept under review.

Hospitals: Admissions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place on an *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local scale to share information on available hospital beds in circumstances of significant emergencies. [178721]

Dawn Primarolo: As category 1 responders, national health service trusts have a duty to ensure an appropriate response to major incidents under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The arrangements should enable a co-ordinated response regardless of the nature or scale of the incident.

Every hospital has major incident plans to make beds available if requested in the event of an emergency. This is co-ordinated at a local or regional level via established command and control systems (gold, silver and bronze). In an exceptionally large emergency this will be co-ordinated nationally across larger geographic areas by the Department's major incident co-ordination centre, which acts as a focal point of liaison and co-ordination between NHS gold structures.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what average length of time hospital wards which have been deep cleaned have been out of use during deep cleaning. [180396]

Ann Keen: The details and timetable of each trust's deep clean plan will vary according to local need and the configuration of local services. In addition, not all deep cleaning requires the closure of wards, and trusts will have organised their programmes in order to minimise disruption to services and inconvenience to patients.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS. Further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the NHS is available from strategic health authorities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which budget the £50 million for deep-cleaning hospitals has been allocated. [180250]

Ann Keen: Funding for deep-cleaning hospitals has been allocated from strategic health authority budgets. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 134-35WS.

Hospitals: Vetting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on delays in making appointments for hospital jobs following changes made to the Criminal Records Bureau fast-track checking systems; and if he will make a statement. [179590]

Ann Keen: The Department is not aware of any representations being made on problems in making appointments for hospital jobs following changes made to the Criminal Records Bureau fast-track checking systems.

In-patient Management Programme

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been identified in the in-patient management programme for cancer services, as outlined in the impact assessment of the cancer reform strategy. [181397]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The Cancer Services Collaborative Improvement Partnership and the cancer action team are developing the in-patient management programme to encourage and support local implementation of the programme.

The programme will initially focus on providing support and guidance on service improvement for different categories of patients, such as patients admitted electively for surgery or chemotherapy and patients admitted as an emergency who are subsequently diagnosed with cancer.

For the first five years of the programme, the costs have been identified as follows:

	Cost in (£ million)
2008-09	35.9
2009-10	61.5
2010-11	102.4
2011-12	153.9
2012-13	225.2

The bulk of these costs are for treatment provided outside in-patient settings as a result of avoiding or reducing lengths of stay, such as community rehabilitation/care and additional monitoring/treatment and ambulatory care, but they also include costs for programme management and monitoring.

However, overall, the programme will result in both improved experiences for patients and significant cost reductions. For example, if a 25 per cent. reduction in non-surgical admissions for cancer were achieved across the country, estimates suggest this would result in a £340 million reduction in costs.

Junior Doctors: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly trained junior doctors were employed in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Queen's Hospital, Romford in the last 12 months. [179665]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of doctors in the first year of employment, compared to the total number in training at all trusts within National Health Service London, the five NHS trusts in the Essex area, and at the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, of which Queen's Hospital Romford is a part, on 30 September 2006.

		All doctors in training	House officer and foundation programme year one[1]
Greater London	London Strategic Health Authority[2]	10,633	815
Essex	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	154	30
	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	184	28
	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	200	30
	Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	162	27
	Southend Hospital NHS Trust	198	30
Queen's Hospital, Romford	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	419	47

[1] The position of House Officer is currently being phased out and will soon be replaced entirely by foundation programme year one.
[2] London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) does not map precisely over the county boundaries of Greater London.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The number of doctors that the NHS requires to be recruited each year is a matter for determination by local NHS organisations, as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community.

Medical Profession

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* nurses, *(b)* midwives and *(c)* doctors were working in the NHS three years after they qualified in each year since 1997. [180027]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect centrally information on how many nurses, midwives or doctors were working in the national health service three years after they qualified in each year since 1997.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) destination of leavers survey asks United Kingdom and European Union-based graduates about their employment circumstances six months after graduation.

The percentage of newly-qualified nurses and midwives (combined) and doctors between 2003 and 2006 inclusive who found employment in their chosen profession six months after graduation is shown in the following tables.

Employment circumstances of graduates six months after successfully completing a pre-registration course in nursing or midwifery, England

Number (headcount) and percentage

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Academic year of graduation	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Number of survey respondents[1]	9,210		10,309		10,066		11,427	
Of which								
Employed as a nurse or midwife	8,391	91.1	9,443	91.6	9,202	91.4	9,974	87.3
Employed in other healthcare-related profession	102	1.1	122	1.2	131	1.3	225	2.0
Employed elsewhere	151	1.6	141	1.4	127	1.3	260	2.3

Employment circumstances of graduates six months after successfully completing a pre-registration course in nursing or midwifery, England

Number (headcount) and percentage

Academic year of graduation	*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Unemployed	418	4.5	453	4.4	453	4.5	770	6.7
Unknown	148	1.6	150	1.5	153	1.5	198	1.7

[1] The survey response rates for nursing and midwifery graduates were as follows: 2002-03: 72 per cent.; 2003-04: 74 per cent.; 2004-05: 74 per cent.; 2005-06: 76 per cent.

Note:

HESA Destination of Leavers Survey asks UK- and EU-based graduates about their employment circumstances approximately six months after graduation.

Sources:

HESA Destination *of Leavers from Higher Education Survey*

The Information Centre for health and social care Student Database

Employment circumstances of graduates six months after successfully completing a pre-registration course in medicine, England

Academic year of graduation	*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Number of survey respondents[1]	3,118		3,398		3,544		4,135	
of which:								
Employed as a doctor	2,855	91.6	3,152	92.8	3,214	90.7	3,743	90.5
Employed in other healthcare-related profession	3	0.1	5	0.1	7	0.2	12	0.3
Employed elsewhere	12	0.4	13	0.4	17	0.5	15	0.4
Unemployed	234	7.5	219	6.4	284	8.0	309	7.5
Unknown	14	0.4	9	0.3	22	0.6	56	1.4

[1] The survey response rates for graduates in medicine were as follows: 2002-03: 89 per cent.; 2003-04: 91 per cent.; 2004-05: 89 per cent.; 2005-06: 93 per cent.

Note:

The HESA Destination of Leavers Survey asks UK- and EU-based graduates about their employment circumstances approximately six months after graduation.

Sources:

HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey

The Information Centre for health and social care Student Database

Mental Health

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to extend *(a)* mental illness and *(b)* learning difficulties training programmes for GPs and community care staff. [177020]

Ann Keen: The educational and training curriculum of general practitioners (GPs) is set and managed by the Royal College of General Practitioners. The content of the GP training curriculum is agreed by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB). PMETB has recently approved a new curriculum for postgraduate general practice training.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects money allocated to the University hospital of North Durham to tackle MRSA to be spent. [178714]

Ann Keen: To support ongoing improvements in improving cleanliness and tackling infections, the comprehensive spending review (CSR) identified £270 million additional funding per year by 2010-11. For 2008-09, this additional funding is reflected in the 5.5 per cent. increase in primary care trust allocations and the 2.3 per cent. uplift to the national tariff—the latter specifically recognising the importance of tackling health care acquired infections and improving cleanliness. Ultimately spending decisions are taken by local trusts.

The information is not held centrally.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of job retention or an early return to employment on patients with musculoskeletal disorders. [181912]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the effect of job retention, or an early return to employment, on patients with musculoskeletal disorders.

NHS: Screening

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be screened for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* stroke, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* kidney disease and *(e)* aortic aneurysm in each of the next three years in each primary care trust. [180333]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing proposals for a screening programme. The purpose of the screening programme will be to identify people's levels of risk for cardiac and vascular disease so that they can be offered preventive measures.

The number of people who will be screened is by its nature unpredictable, and will depend on the details of what is offered to whom, which will be worked out in part in discussions with stakeholders. However, a range of assumptions about likely take-up levels of a vascular risk assessment programme will be modelled into the analytical work being undertaken by the Department.

Assumptions about likely take-up will also form part of the discussions we will have with stakeholders about the development of the practical aspects of the programme.

With regard to screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm, information on estimated numbers of people who will be screened is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to encourage high-risk groups to access screening for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* stroke, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* kidney disease and *(e)* aortic aneurysm. [180407]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing proposals for a screening-programme. Any such programme will use an assessment of risk based on a range of known predictive factors including age, gender, smoking status, body mass index, high blood pressure, and cholesterol and glucose, as appropriate. The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme is still the subject of developmental work. It would be premature at this stage to set out specific details on advertising and education campaigns.

With regard to screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), a variety of information and support materials will be developed with stakeholders to enable men to make an informed choice about whether they wish to undergo AAA screening or possible surgery if an AAA is detected.

NHS: Standards

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the impact on trusts' 18-week targets and two-week cancer treatment times of service and training post vacancies. [181172]

Ann Keen: Service transformation, supported by the significant increase in the work force since 1997, new ways of working and productivity gains will enable the 18-week targets and the cancer treatment times to be delivered and sustained.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many matrons were employed in the NHS in each year since 1997-98. [181285]

Ann Keen: Modern matrons were identified separately for the first time in the 2005 annual National Health Service workforce census. Community matrons were identified separately for the first time in the 2006 annual NHS Workforce census. The number of both modern and community matrons employed is shown in the following table.

England as at 30 September each year

			Headcount
	2004	*2005*	*[1]2006*
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	375,371	381,257	374,538
Modern matron	—	1,606	1,982
Community matron	—	—	366

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. Although this represents less than 1 per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons. These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 368 support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 21 in other areas.

Patients: Safety

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *what incident types are used for entries in the National* Reporting and Learning System in England and Wales. [180885]

Ann Keen: The current version of the National Patient Safety Agency's National Reporting and Learning System dataset comprises 15 categories of incident type.

The 15 categories are

access, admission, transfer, discharge (including missing patient);

clinical assessment (including diagnosis, scans, tests, assessments);

consent, communication, confidentiality;

disruptive, aggressive behaviour;

documentation (including records, identification);

implementation of care and ongoing monitoring/review;

infection Control Incident;

infrastructure (including staffing, facilities, environment);

medical device/equipment;

medication;

patient abuse (by staff/third party);

patient accident;

self-harming behaviour;

treatment, procedure; and.

other.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects from primary care trusts on hospital at night teams. [178262]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information from primary care trusts on Hospital at Night (H@N) teams. However, we are aware that the H@N team in National Workforce Projects (NWP) has surveyed trusts.

In the baseline survey of acute trusts, completed in October 2006, 65 per cent. of respondents had completed an audit and identified key competencies needed for their H@N team, and over half the trusts used the National Patient Safety Agency guide to do their risk assessment. This report can be found on NWP's website at

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/working_time_directive/wtd_projects/baseline_report.html

Primary Care Trusts: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual salary is of a primary care trust (PCT) chief executive in England; what the average was in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2005; how many PCT chief executives received bonuses in (i) 2001 and (ii) 2005; and what the total value of such bonuses in each year was. [178960]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect details on the pay of individuals in primary care trusts (PCTs), and we therefore cannot provide the average salary of their chief executives. National health service organisations are public bodies and as such, the pay of their senior executive teams is a matter of public record, published in their annual accounts.

Following the reconfigurations proposed by "Commissioning a patient-led NHS" in July 2006 the Department published a new "Pay Framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts", a copy is available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137432

PCT chief executives are paid a spot rate salary which is determined (within a range) by the size of the population the PCT serves. The document was updated in July 2007 and is available in the Library and on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_076986

The current spot rate salaries are shown in the following table. The framework also provides for the payment of recruitment and retention premiums (of up to 30 per cent. of the spot rate salary) and payments for additional duties (up to 10 per cent. of the spot rate salary) where appropriate.

Spot rates for PCT chief executives in 2007-08

	Weighted population	*Salary from 1 April 2007 (£)*
Band one	Up to 150,000	101,504
Band two	150-300,000	112,211
Band three	300-500,000	122,897
Band four	500,000-1 million	133,584
Band five	Over 1 million	144,271

In 2001, PCTs were still being established and there were no nationally set rates for the pay of their chief executives.

For information, the arrangements for the pay of their chief executives were formalised from 2002 with the publication of "Shifting the balance of power: a framework for benchmarking PCT Chief Executive salaries". A copy is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4083023

Salary ranges for PCT chief executives in 2002-03

£

Population served	*Minimum*	*Midpoint*	*Maximum*
Up to 150,000	78,625	85,000	91,375
150-300,000	87,875	95,000	102,125
300-500,000	92,500	100,000	107,500

The Department issued guidance on pay ranges and each year notified the NHS of the maximum increase in the pay envelope for senior executive staff. Pay increases awarded to individuals may have varied as long as organisations limited the total pay envelope for this staff group to the maximum set by the Department. For the period 2002 to 2005, these were as follows:

	Percentage
2003-04	3.225
2004-05	3.225
2005-06	3.225

By applying these annual uplift levels to the salary ranges published in 2002, an estimate of typical salary levels can be made:

Typical salary ranges for PCT chief executives in 2005-06—estimated

£

Population served	*Minimum*	*Midpoint*	*Maximum*
Up to 150,000	86,480	93,492	100,504
150-300,000	96,654	104,491	112,328
300-500,000	101,741	109,990	118,240

Prior to 2006, PCT chief executives were on local contracts. Although in some cases individuals may have been awarded performance-related awards, there were no national arrangements for the payment of bonuses to PCT chief executives.

Performance awards were introduced for all PCT chief executives as part of the "very senior managers' pay framework" published in July 2006.

Queen's Hospital Romford: Doctors

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants were working at Queen's Hospital, Romford in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what steps the Government are taking to increase the number. [179668]

Ann Keen: The information requested is held by national health service trust only, and is therefore provided for Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, of which Queen's hospital, Romford is a part. September 2006 is the most recent period for which data are available.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental consultants working within Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust[1] as at 30 September 2006

	Consultant (Number, headcount)
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	216

[1] Queens hospital, Romford is contained within this Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust.

Note:

Data only available at trust level.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

There were 32,874 consultants counted in the 2006 census—10,500 (49 per cent.) more consultants working in the national health service than there were in 1997.

The number of training opportunities is reviewed regularly. However, this is a matter for determination by individual NHS organisations. Forecasts show increasing demand for consultants, with around 2,500 more consultants employed by 2010-11. This reaffirms the Government's commitment to having more specialist doctors overall.

Review Group

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 39, page 37 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, what the dates were of each meeting held by the review group led by Professor Neil Douglas; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting. [178281]

Ann Keen: The group led by Neil Douglas was asked to

understand what has worked and not worked to date (March 2007);

identify and promote good practice;

recommend action to remedy any weaknesses, taking account of legal and operational constraints;

identify specifically what further action or guidance is required:

immediately (or before completion of round one);

before commencement of round two;

before and subsequent rounds; and

develop improved arrangements for the support and care of applicants.

The Department accepted and acted upon recommendations as they were made. The report of the review team can be found at:

www.mmc.nhs.uk

Meetings were held on 16 March, 21 March, 26 March, 30 March, 4 April, 17 April, 26 April, 9 May, 17 May, 24 May, 5 June and 28 June. They took place at a critical stage in the development of policy and it therefore would not be appropriate to publish the agenda and minutes of them. In addition, as the meetings began nearly a year ago, they may be misleading in the context of a rapidly changing environment.

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on screening, what estimates he has made of the cost of the screening programme in each future financial year for which estimates have been made; [180773]

(2) how frequently people will be screened under the programme; [180775]

(3) on what date the right to screening for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes will be implemented (i) for the most vulnerable groups and (ii) for the whole population. [180853]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk programme. A departmental project is currently under way to assess the costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme.

We have a piece of modelling work in train which will develop the evidence base on which to construct an integrated approach to vascular risk assessment. The work will include estimating the amount of preventive work currently carried out by general practitioner surgeries and the impact of the introduction of a vascular screening programme.

The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme, including details of operations, time scales for implementing the programme and determining the frequency of screening individuals, is still the subject of developmental work.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on screening, what preventive measures will be offered if people are found to be at risk through screening. [180779]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk programme. A departmental project is currently under way to assess the costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme.

Clear guidelines already exist for the management of identified risk in relation to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and heart disease. These can be found in the CHD, Diabetes and Renal National Service Frameworks, the National Stroke Strategy, and various relevant pieces of guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE continues to ensure that updated guidance is available to the clinical community.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on screening, which of the tests and measurements referred to relate to *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes. [180780]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk programme.

A departmental project is currently under way to assess the costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme. This would be focused on the shared risk factors for conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease and as such would use an assessment of risk based on a range of known predictive factors including age, gender, smoking status, body mass index, high blood pressure, and cholesterol and glucose, as appropriate.

Speech Therapy: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech therapists are employed by the NHS in Barnet; how many there were in 1997; what the estimated shortfall is of numbers of speech therapists in Barnet; what the average waiting time for a first appointment to see a speech therapist in Barnet was on the latest date for which figures are available; what steps he is taking to improve the provision of speech therapy in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [179105]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of speech and language therapy (SLT).

Information about waiting times for SLT provided by the national health service is not collected centrally. The Department collects waiting time information by consultant-led specialties. SLT is not a consultant-led speciality. Our objective is to balance the need for data against the burden that data collection places on the NHS.

There are 6,623 SLTs working in the NHS (NHS staff census September 2006—headcount), an increase of 36 per cent. since 1997. The number of SLTs entering training has increased by 65 per cent. since 1998-99.

Terminal Care

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to extend the Marie Curie Delivering Choice programme for terminally ill people to parts of the country not currently served by it. [181001]

Ann Keen: We are supportive of Marie Curie Cancer Care's Delivering Choice programme, which provides a good example of the ways in which charities can work with the statutory sector to deliver quality care and patient choice. We are in discussion with Marie Curie on how we can further support the programme, but decisions on whether to fund local programmes remain the responsibility of primary care trusts.

Treatment Centres

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish performance information for each operational independent sector treatment centre. [180031]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department published information as shown in the following tables on each wave 1 independent-sector treatment centre (ISTC) scheme, including the contract value, volume of activity, case mix by volume and utilisation rates on 15 November. This is also available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Secondarycare/Treatmentcentres/index.htm

ISTC Phase 1 contractual information (as at end of September 2007-08)

Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Interim site commencement*	*Full service commencement*	*Total nominal contract value (£ million)*	*Contract utilisation to date (30-09-07) (Percentage)*	*Total contracted diagnostics*
LP2	Bradford	Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 April 2005	37.3	81	88,583
LP3	Burton	Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	—	10 July 2006	77.4	74	
LP4	Trent and South Yorkshire	Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 April 2005	96.7	89	
LP5	Daventry	The Birkdale Clinic	—	1 October 2003	4.9	97	
LP7	Shepton Mallet	Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre		1 July 2005	110.3	95	
LP8	Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	—	19 May 2005	89.5	67	
LP9	Plymouth	Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	—	3 May 2005	58.3	102	
GC4*	East Cornwall	Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	1 October 2005	1 January 2006	24.9	56	
GC4	East Lincolnshire	Boston NHS Treatment Centre	—	20 April 2005	9.1	79	2,259
GC4	North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	1 April 2005	25 January 2006	41.3	81	
GC4	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	The Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	—	25 May 2005	10.3	81	
GC4	West Lincolnshire	Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 April 2005	6.1	80	200
GC4	Southampton	Capio New Hall Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 April 2005	41.8	72	
GC4*	North Oxford	Horton NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 August 2006	79.2	51	—
GC4*	Thames Valley (Milton Keynes)	Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	1 April 2005	3 July 2006	12.1	58	—
GC4	Thames Valley (Reading)	Capio Reading Hospital NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 April 2005	14.5	92	—
GC5E	Nottingham	Nottingham NHS Treatment Centre at QMC	—	Site in Mobilisation	201.5	n/a	—

ISTC Phase 1 contractual information (as at end of September 2007-08)

Contract	*Location*	*Hospital name*	*Interim site commencement*	*Full service commencement*	*Total nominal contract value (£ million)*	*Contract utilisation to date (30-09-07) (Percentage)*	*Total contracted diagnostics*
GC5W	Cheshire and Merseyside	Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 June 2006	111.0	100	—
GC5W	Kidderminster	Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 February 2005	26.9	87	—
GC6	Maidstone	Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	—	6 November 2006	36.5	101	—
GC7	North East London	North East London NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 January 2007	107.9	80	—
GC8	Brighton	Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	—	1 June 2006	100.9	101	—
GC8	Havant	TBC	—	Site in Mobilisation	6.4	n/a	78,600
GC8*	Medway	Will Adams NHS	—	1 October 2005	26.6	48	—
GC8	Portsmouth	St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	—	19 December 2005	65.3	60	48,546
GC8	Wycombe	Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS	—	1 August 2005	10.6	82	74,880
OC123	Ophthalmic Chain	—	—	25 January 2004	41.6	79	—
	Contractual total	—	—	—	1,448.9	—	293,068
	ISTC utilisation to date	—	—	—	—	84	—

Total contracted procedures broken down by health resource group (HRG) chapter

Contract	*Location*	*Total contracted procedures*	*General surgery*	*Orthopaedics*	*Nervous system*	*Ophthalmology*	*ENT*
LP2	Bradford	28,564	4,703	4,530	—	407	1,015
LP3	Burton	64,814	6,673	11,908	6,168	16,477	3,590
LP4	Trent and South Yorkshire	21,449	—	21,449	—	—	—
LP5	Daventry	5,155	144	392	319	3,841	217
LP7	Shepton Mallet	56,242	2,000	22,242	—	12,000	—
LP8	Greater Manchester	44,863	5,782	20,667	—	—	14,351
LP9	Plymouth	16,512	—	16,512	—	—	—
GC4*	East Cornwall	26,495	215	40	—	7,148	—
GC4	East Lincolnshire	6,955	572	—	—	3,401	—
GC4	North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	8,638	581	7,621	—	—	—
GC4	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	9,551	2,221	—	—	—	—
GC4	West Lincolnshire	5,647	447	996	—	1,574	—
GC4	Southampton	13,737	—	13,737	—	—	—
GC4*	North Oxford	15,970	—	15,970	—	—	—
GC4*	Thames Valley (Milton Keynes)	8,292	260	4,185	—	—	—
GC4	Thames Valley (Reading)	5,935	28	3,024	—	—	—
GC5E	Nottingham	110,683	29,556	10,481	10,634	704	4,452
GC5W	Cheshire and Merseyside	24,817	—	24,817	—	—	—
GC5W	Kidderminster	9,000	—	8,355	645	—	—
GC6	Maidstone	55,117	4,356	3,560	—	—	—
GC7	North East London	56,030	1,580	15,495	—	8,040	9,415
GC8	Brighton	26,438	141	26,297	—	—	—
GC8	Havant	—	—	—	—	—	—
GC8*	Medway	19,770	400	6,235	—	—	—
GC8	Portsmouth	34,218	4,243	4,854	—	8,265	—
GC8	Wycombe	—	—	—	—	—	—
OC123	Ophthalmic Chain	44,735	—	—	—	44,735	—
	Contractual total	719,627	63,900	243,367	17,766	106,592	33,040
	ISTC utilisation to date	—	—	—	—	—	—

		Total contracted procedures broken down by health resource group (HRG) chapter			
Contract	*Location*	*Thoracic procedures*	*Digestive system*	*Urology*	*Gynaecology*
LP2	Bradford	—	10,567	4,168	3,175
LP3	Burton	109	5,405	11,631	2,853
LP4	Trent and South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—
LP5	Daventry	—	242	—	—
LP7	Shepton Mallet	—	20,000	—	—
LP8	Greater Manchester	—	3,267	796	—
LP9	Plymouth	—	—	—	—
GC4*	East Cornwall	—	14,984	182	3,926
GC4	East Lincolnshire	—	2,392	590	—
GC4	North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	—	436	—	—
GC4	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	—	7,330	—	—
GC4	West Lincolnshire	—	1,464	1,166	—
GC4	Southampton	—	—	—	—
GC4*	North Oxford	—	—	—	—
GC4*	Thames Valley (Milton Keynes)	—	3,384	321	142
GC4	Thames Valley (Reading)	—	2,141	271	471
GC5E	Nottingham	1,274	40,332	203	13,048
GC5W	Cheshire and Merseyside	—	—	—	—
GC5W	Kidderminster	—	—	—	—
GC6	Maidstone	689	36,862	248	9,402
GC7	North East London	—	5,590	15,910	—
GC8	Brighton	—	—	—	—
GC8	Havant	—	—	—	—
GC8*	Medway	—	6,065	7,070	—
GC8	Portsmouth	—	16,856	—	—
GC8	Wycombe	—	—	—	—
OC123	Ophthalmic Chain	—	—	—	—
	Contractual total	2,072	177,317	42,555	33,017
	ISTC utilisation to date	—	—	—	—

Notes

1. The total contract value represents the estimated nominal value at the time of signing, calculated in accordance with an estimate of the inflation index as specified in each contract.
2. The contracted activity is indicative only and can vary significantly from actual activity through substitution of higher or lower value procedures across the contract term.
3. Utilisation represents the per cent. value of the contract which has been utilised from contract commencement to the end of September 2007-08.
4. Utilisation per cent. may change following contract reconciliation which occurs at the end of each contract quarter and year.
5. All information provided has been based on the most up to date information at the time of submission.
6. The specialties are referenced to HRG Chapter. "General Surgery" includes HRG chapters E, G, J, K, P, Q and S. HRG information is available at: www.ic.nhs.uk/casemix.
7. This information is expected to be updated on an annual basis.
8. The Department works with sponsors and providers to ensure optimum utilisation of the contracts. This includes changing the case mix to respond to local need and working with providers and primary care trusts to recover previous under-utilised activity where possible. * In addition to the work we are doing across all ISTCs to improve utilisation we are also taking the following action:

Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre

DH is agreeing a contract change to allow the ISTC to treat patients needing diagnostic endoscopies to achieve a two week wait in cancer referrals

The provider (Capio) is targeting GPs with a marketing campaign to improve direct referrals

Norton

DH is negotiating with the provider to relax the additionality clause so that local NHS surgeons can work in the ISTC "out of hours"

Introducing outreach clinics in nearby towns to improve direct referrals from GPs

DH is negotiating to sell unused activity to neighbouring PCTs and adjacent SHA

Blakelands

There have been referrals issues in this ISTC but DH agreed a recovery plan and this is now resolved. Utilisation has been averaging 95 per cent. since February 2007

Medway

This contract suffered from the turbulence of structural changes in the PCTs, but these are now resolved and utilisation is showing improvement

The provider (Mercury) was taken over by Care UK recently and has been negotiating a range of new services which will improve utilisation in the new year

The sponsor PCT is negotiating to sell unused activity to neighbouring PCTs

9. If you have any questions relating to this release of information please contact the Department of Health Newsdesk on 0207 210 5221 or for general enquiries phone 0207 210 4850.

JUSTICE

Cambridgeshire Probation Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were accommodated in the Peterborough city council area under the auspices of the Cambridgeshire Probation Service MAPPA arrangements at *(a)* level 1, *(b)* level 2 and *(c)* level 3 as at 31 December in each year since 2001. [178644]

Maria Eagle: The available data is not collated by council area or by parliamentary constituency. Data on offenders in the three levels of the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) are collated geographically by MAPPA area. MAPPA areas are coterminous with police force and probation areas. This data is published in (MAPPA) annual reports which are available in the House Libraries and at

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The Peterborough city council area is not coterminous with any area, but is covered by the data relating to Cambridgeshire area as published in its MAPPA annual report. MAPPA data are collected on 31 March each year, for the period covering the previous year.

Figures relating to MAPPA level 3 were not collected until the period covering 2002-03; figures relating to other MAPPA levels were not collected separately until 2004-05.

Cambridgeshire MAPPA statistics (broken down by level/year)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
(a) Level 1	n/a	n/a	460	585	561
(b) Level 2	n/a	n/a	95	113	160
(c) Level 3	48	2	3	4	4
Total of offenders	[1]732	[1]549	558	702	725

[1] Although level 1 and 2 data was not collected, figures on offenders were collected via MAPPA Category during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Data Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make a statement on the action progressed against the United Kingdom by the European Union for failing to implement European Directive 95/46/EU on the basis that there is no lex forum for a Children and Family Courts Advisory Support Service report to be rectified; and if he will make a statement; [182143]

(2) what mechanisms exist to allow litigants to correct inaccuracies in a Children and Family Courts Advisory Support Service report when a family court judge does not order rectification and assertion remains disputed; and if he will make a statement; [182144]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of European Directive 95/46/EU on the ability of an individual to correct inaccurate information contained in a Children and Family Courts Advisory Support Service report; and if he will make a statement. [182145]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

It is the practice of CAFCASS to ensure that the parties to proceedings in which a CAFCASS officer has been appointed have access to the CAFCASS report before it is presented to the court. Where factual inaccuracies are brought to the attention of the CAFCASS officer, the correct information is included in the report and the error noted in the file. It is also the case that differences of opinion or judgment are routinely reflected in CAFCASS reports. In addition, concerns about the factual accuracy or other aspects of the report (for example, the extent of the inquiries, the opinions expressed in it or matters disputed by the parties) may be raised in court during the course of the proceedings. It is for the court to make findings of fact, based on the evidence before it, including the contents of the CAFCASS report, and to determine the outcome of applications based on those findings. CAFCASS' records include details of the findings and determinations made by the courts.

Compliance with Article 22 of Directive 95/46/EC is achieved through the Data Protection Act 1998 section 14(1), under the terms of which a data subject can apply to court for rectification, blocking, erasure or destruction of personal data relating to him or her. If the personal data are inaccurate, the court can make an order not only in relation to those data but also any other personal data relating to the applicant containing an expression of opinion which appears to the court to be based on the inaccurate data.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near-cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174991]

Maria Eagle: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the 'Part II: Subhead' detail table of our main and winter supplementary estimates as follows.

£000

Section	Main estimate			Winter supplementary estimate		
Spending in (voted) DEL	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*	*Total*	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*	*Total*
Headquarters and Associated Offices	414,473	17,994	432,467	544,024	407,532	951,556
Judicial Pension Administration	12	—	12	12	—	12
HM Courts Service	705,090	256,040	961,130	745,741	236,583	982,324
Office of the Public Guardian and Court of Protection	-1,000	2,100	1,100	-973	2,100	1,127
Costs from Central Funds	45,000	—	45,000	5,000	40,000	45,000
Tribunals Service	293,942	5,680	299,622	297,249	5,680	302,929
Princess of Wales Inquest	515	—	515	370	—	370
Criminal Justice Reform	—	—	—	117,379	15,865	133,244
National Offender Management Service HQ	—	—	—	647,729	390,383	1,038,112

£000

Section	*Main estimate*			*Winter supplementary estimate*		
Spending in (voted) DEL	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*	*Total*	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*	*Total*
Prisons Private Sector	—	—	—	224,309	23,720	248,029
Prisons Public Sector	—	—	—	2,008,902	27,100	2,036,002
Probation HQ	—	—	—	57,251	457	57,708
Total RfR1 only	1,458,032	281,814	1,739,846	4,646,993	1,149,420	5,796,413

The following table relates to cash grants to the relevant bodies.

£000

Non-budget	*Main estimate*	*Winter supplementary estimate*
Legal Service Commission	116,800	121,978
Criminal Defence Service	1,172,300	1,153,246
Community Legal Service	860,000	896,354
Information Commissioner's Office	4,999	5,000
Judicial Appointments Commission	5,700	7,130
Parole Board	—	7,789
National Probation Service (Local area boards)	—	881,090
Youth Justice Boards	—	448,881
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	—	223,789
Criminal Cases Review Commission	—	6,815
Loan Charges	—	2,190
Total grant	2,159,799	3,754,262

In addition, the Department provided £2,000 (000s) in capital grants for local authorities in the winter supplementary estimate. Capital grants are treated as resource in the estimate and capital in terms of departmental expenditure limit (DEL).

In line with the creation of the Ministry of Justice and owing to the machinery of Government changes, a transfer of a number of business areas with funding from the Home Office took effect in the winter supplementary estimate.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish a further White Paper on House of Lords reform. [182616]

Mr. Straw: The Government will publish the White Paper before the summer recess. I am chairing a cross-party group, working to gain consensus from parliamentarians of all parties and of none. We want the White Paper to reflect the results of this group's conclusions.

Law Society: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is investigating complaints made to the Law Society's Legal Complaints Service by miners and their families relating to solicitors making inappropriate deductions from miners' compensation awards, with reference to the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner's report "Investigation into the Handling of Coal Health Compensation Scheme Complaints by The Legal Complaints Service and Solicitors Regulation Authority," dated 15 January 2008; whether he plans to take other steps in response to that report; and if he will make a statement. [178831]

Bridget Prentice: The legal profession is independent, and complaints about solicitors are therefore a matter for the Law Society rather than Government. However, the Government believe that it is important that miners who complain to the Law Society about their claims under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme get the level of service and compensation that they deserve. The Government therefore seek regular updates from the Law Society to ensure that progress is being made in continually improving the service, and are awaiting a detailed response from the Law Society to the LSCC Special Report.

The Government have legislated in the Legal Services Act 2007 to create an independent Office for Legal Complaints which will remove complaints handling from the legal professional bodies. It will also enable approved regulators to deal more effectively with cases of widespread wrongdoing in the future.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to *(a)* retrain Legal Complaints Service caseworkers on the various options open to miners and *(b)* assess the financial implications of each option with reference to the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner's report "Investigation into the Handling of Coal Health Compensation Scheme Complaints by The Legal Complaints Service and Solicitors Regulation Authority," of 15 January 2008. [178832]

Bridget Prentice: The legal profession is independent and complaints about solicitors are therefore a matter for the Law Society rather than Government. The Legal Complaints Service has informed the Ministry of Justice that its staff receive regular ongoing training taking into account feedback from all quarters including the LSCC. The LCS is currently investigating the financial implications of case handling options.

The Government seek regular updates from the Law Society to ensure that progress is being made in continually improving the service, and are awaiting a detailed response from the Law Society to the LSCC Special Report.

The Government have legislated in the Legal Services Act 2007 to create an independent Office for Legal Complaints which will remove complaints handling from the legal professional bodies. It will also enable approved regulators to deal more effectively with cases of widespread wrongdoing in the future.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will establish an investigation the payments made between solicitors as identified in the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner's recent report on the handling of Coal Health Compensation Schemes and the trade unions which referred cases to them. [178833]

Bridget Prentice: The legal profession is independent, and complaints about solicitors' conduct are therefore a matter for the Law Society rather than Government.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has authorised investigations 60 firms of solicitors; 20 firms have been referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, and the SRA has won the first three disciplinary cases heard there.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoner Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners sentenced to life since 1997 have been released from custody. [178749]

Maria Eagle: To provide the information requested would require manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost. The Department is developing a new database that will allow it to accurately capture the information requested. The new database is currently going live in the Public Protection Unit, and it is expected that data migration will be completed by April, subject to data quality assurance. The information requested will not be available until April at the very earliest.

Ministry of Justice

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department are working on the central management of change programme *(a)* in London and *(b)* in each region. [181935]

Maria Eagle: A small central team of 13 staff full-time equivalents work in the Department's Centre of Excellence for Programme Management. Among their responsibilities is the management of the Department's change portfolio of programmes and projects. All the Department's agencies and business units are responsible for development and delivery of their own change programmes. Information on the number of people engaged in the management of change is not held centrally within the Department and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost. This is because the information is unlikely to be available locally, as it is not required for normal day-to-day operations and change activities are often dispersed nationally across the business units.

National Offender Management Information System

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the non-roll-out of C-NOMIS to the Probation Service will affect *(a)* shared information in real time, *(b)* risk management, *(c)* managed sentencing and rehabilitation and *(d)* efficiency. [182113]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Information will not be shared in real-time. However, the proposed data sharing system will update key offender information from HMPS and NFS systems on a daily basis and information will be a maximum of 24 hours out of date. In addition, OASys will also provide, for the first time, a single national database of offenders who fall within the agreed scope of offender management.

(b) As now, risk management of offenders is managed through the OASys and e-OASys systems in HMPS and NFS and is not affected by the constrained implementation of C-NOMIS to HMPS only.

(c) Managed sentencing and rehabilitation "across the gate" will continue to be done through the agreed offender management processes, which will be supported by the projects in the NOMIS programme.

(d) There will be efficiencies for probation from the projects in the NOMIS programme.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many estimated individual offender records relating to offenders held or under supervision by the National Offender Management Service will be on the C-NOMIS system in each of the next 10 years. [182116]

Mr. Hanson: As a result of the changes in the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS programme, which will see the C-NOMIS continuing to be rolled out into public prisons but not probation areas, the estimated number of individual offender records to be held on C-NOMIS is currently under review. However, officials are committed to ensuring that there will always be sufficient capacity in C-NOMIS to ensure the successful running of the system.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are being put in place for liaison between probation and prison staff in the end-to-end management of individual offenders. [182114]

Mr. Hanson: A range of procedures have been put in place to support the liaison between probation and prison staff. Standards for offender management, which cover both custody and community, have been set. Joint training for the implementation has been provided, common forms have been issued, and single points of contact have been established. All these measures are designed to ensure good information exchange and liaison between prison and probation staff. Full connectivity of the new offender assessment system has been established between probation services and prisons. This enables the offender manager to adopt a joint approach with prison staff to assessment and sentence planning.

The implementation of end-to-end offender management is overseen by regional implementation groups in all nine regions in England and in Wales. These are composed of strategic and operational managers from prisons and probation, and representatives from regional offender managers' offices.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is expected that the end-to-end management of offenders will be available for all persons placed on supervision. [182205]

Mr. Hanson: Offender management is being implemented in phases with all offenders on community orders and licences and offenders in custody assessed as posing a high/very high risk of serious harm or classified as "Prolific or Other Priority" serving a determinate sentence of 12 months or more, already covered. Phase 3 began in January 2008 and extended offender management to offenders serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP).

Offenders: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals likely to serve custodial sentences in England and Wales in each year to 2014. [178712]

Mr. Straw: No separate prison population projection for foreign nationals has been made. The latest published prison population projections were published in August 2007 ("Prison population projections 2007-2014 England and Wales", N de Silva, et al., Ministry of Justice, 2007). A copy is available in the Library of the House. In September there were 11,211 foreign national prisoners in prison in England and Wales, 14 per cent. of the total. According to the Council of Europe this is the second lowest proportion of any major western European nation, and compared with 21 per cent. France, 28 per cent. Germany, 42 per cent. Greece, 34 per cent. Italy and 43 per cent. Austria.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places at *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Forest Bank, *(c)* Dovegate, *(d)* Rye Hill, *(e)* Bronzefield and *(f)* Peterborough prisons were (i) constructed and (ii) originally contracted to provide. [178755]

Mr. Hanson: The numbers of prison places that were constructed and contracted at the sites mentioned are listed in the following table:

Location	*Date of contract for construction*	*Contractual prison places (including additional prisoner places)*
Ashfield	1 July 1998	400 (+40)
Forest Bank	6 July 1998	800 (+240)
Dovegate	27 September 1999	800[1] (+60)
Rye Hill	23 July 1999	600 (+60)
Bronzefield	20 December 2002	430 (+20)
Peterborough	4 February 2003	840 (+180)

[1] 200 therapeutic community places

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Sentences

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average length of sentence had been served by each of those serving life sentences who were released from prison in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [182626]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the average time served by first released lifer prisoners from all prison establishments in England and Wales in each year since 2000 can be found in the following table.

Mean time served by lifers released from prison on first release in England and Wales 2000-06

	Mean time served (in years)
2000	13
2001	13
2002	14
2003	15
2004	14
2005	14
2006	14

Note:
Table taken from table 10.5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006
http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

If released, life sentence prisoners are on licence for the rest of their lives and liable to recall at any time.

Prison Service: Training

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers at each prison establishment are trained to use cutting gear designated for dealing with hostage situations; and if he will make a statement. [182147]

Maria Eagle: No prison officers within establishments are trained in the use of such equipment. This duty is carried out by a specialist team of HMPS staff known as control and restraint (C and R) national instructors.

There are 21 specialist staff divided between two sites based at Oxford and Doncaster. The role of the C and R centres is to develop and deliver all aspects of legal use of force training within HMPS.

C and R national instructors are responsible for providing an emergency national tactical response to incidents of concerted indiscipline, hostage intervention and incidents at height.

Prison Staff: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many knife attacks were made on prison staff by prisoners in prisons in 2007. [178780]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is set out in the table and subject to important qualifications. The Prison Service Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months. Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other, and Other. Recording of assaults on prison officers sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff.

The use of weapons is also recorded at establishment level. Weapons which function as knives are usually manufactured/assembled by prisoners and these artefacts are sometimes also categorised as sharp instruments.

Type of weapon	*Prisoner on Officer*
Knives/Blades	17
Sharp Instruments	3
2007 total	20

Note:
This table does not include data from CNOMIS (offender management information system) sites where data was not available at time of compilation.

Prison Staff: Injuries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were reported as sustained by prison staff whilst they were off-duty but deemed to be related to the office they held in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [178777]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not collect this information centrally and it can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Any accidents or incidents that result in injury at or in connection with work are recorded, but not those that occur whilst staff are off-duty. In order to obtain this information it would be necessary to ask every member of staff across the prison estate. Staff may not wish to disclose injuries received while off duty as a result of the office they hold.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average duration of a prisoner's stay in any one custodial location has been over the last three years. [178771]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the length of time prisoners spend in each prison establishment is not held centrally and to gather it would require extensive manual inspection of records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners convicted of wounding were transferred to open prisons in 2007; [182422]

(2) how many prisoners convicted for a violent offence were transferred to open prisons before reaching the final 28 days of their sentence in 2007. [182437]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means his Department ensures that transfers of prisoners to the open estate comply with Prison Service Instruction 17/2007. [182604]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 17/2007, which has been replaced by PSI 46/2007, requires prison governors and directors of contracted prisons to put in place arrangements to conduct categorisation reviews at six-monthly intervals for all prisoners in the last 30 months of their sentence. In closed prisons, categorisation reviews must be carried out following the successful completion of any period of release on temporary licence.

Governors (and directors of contracted prisons) must ensure that prisoners are only excluded from allocation to open conditions for reasons that are consistent with the normal categorisation and risk assessment process.

Women prisoners are included in these arrangements. However, prisoners under 18 are not covered by the instruction, and will continue to be placed by the Youth Justice Board.

Compliance with these mandatory actions is managed via the operational line. The categorisation and allocation process is also subject to external audit procedures.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many transfers of high-risk offenders from a *(a)* category A and *(b)* category B prison to open prisons there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [182635]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the transfer of prisoners within the prison estate of establishments within England and Wales is not held centrally, and to collect it would require extensive manual inspection of records.

Prisoners are assessed objectively in a process looking at all aspects of their offending behaviour, actions they have taken to reduce their likelihood of reoffending, and the risk they pose to the public. They are placed in the lowest security category consistent with their assessed risk. Only prisoners placed in the lowest security category (D) may be allocated open conditions.

Prisoners: Protest

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the incidence of dirty protests at each prison establishment in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [182146]

Maria Eagle: A dirty protest is not included in the list of incidents that must be reported to the national operations unit at Prison Service headquarters. Information on the number of dirty protests is not held centrally and could be obtained by contacting each prison only at a disproportionate cost.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what regulations there are on prison *(a)* construction, *(b)* location and *(c)* specifications. [178772]

Mr. Hanson: The construction of prison buildings is subject to the same regulations as other building construction which include Building Regulations where appropriate, Health and Safety and Fire Regulations and various regulations relating to the provision of utility services. Government policies relating to energy and sustainable development apply including the requirement to achieve the highest BRE assessment method rating of excellent for energy efficiency for each building. Design, Security and Technical specifications and standards produced by NOMS also apply. A proposal to locate and build a new prison on a particular site would be subject to planning procedures. These procedures also apply to the provision of a new building in an existing prison.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what specifications are applicable to *(a)* design, *(b)* lighting, *(c)* furniture, *(d)* amenities, *(e)* privacy, *(f)* ventilation and *(g)* space requirements of (i) existing and (ii) new prison places. [178775]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS produces a wide range of design, security and technical specifications and standards which cover every aspect of building design, including lighting, furniture, amenities, privacy, ventilation and space requirements. These specifications and standards take account of regulations relating to building construction and also prison security requirements.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the value of the land occupied by each prison in HM Prison Service. [178776]

Mr. Hanson: Land values are updated annually. The values are not necessarily the same as what might be obtained if a site was sold on the open market. The sale value will depend on how the site can be marketed—a planning consent for residential development will enhance value for example—and the market forces at the time of the sale. The current land values for prisons within the HM Prison Service are in the following table.

Establishment	*Land value at 31 March (£)*
HMP Acklington	885,000
HMP Albany	8,000,000
HMP Ashwell	1,000,000
HMP/YOI Askham Grange	2,000,000
HMP/YOI Aylesbury	5,800,000
HMP Bedford	1,300,000
HMP Belmarsh	31,500,000
HMP Birmingham	7,800,000
HMP Blakenhurst	Site incl with Brockhill
HMP Blantyre House	1,750,000
HMP Blundeston	166,000
HMYOI Brinsford	Site incl with Featherstone
HMP Bristol	4,150,000
HMP Brixton	7,000,000
HMP Brockhill	2,225,000
HMP Buckley Hall	4,500,000
HMP Bullingdon	180,000
HMP/YOI Bullwood Hall	545,000
HMP Camp Hill	2,750,000
HMP Canterbury	2,000,000
HMP/RC Cardiff	4,650,000
HMP/YOI Castington	430,000
HMP Channings Wood	2,170,000
HMP/YOI Chelmsford	12,000,000
HMP Coldingley	14,725,000
HMP Cookham Wood	10,000,000
HMP Dartmoor	n/a Leased Site
HM/YOI Deerbolt	3,500,000
HMP Dorchester	1,400,000
HMP Downview	31,650,000
HMP/YOI Drake Hall	420,000
HMP Durham	670,000
HMP/YOI East Button Park	2,250,000
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	265,000
HMP Elmley	Site incl with Standford Hill
HMP Erlestoke	2,000,000
HMP Everthorpe	5,000,000
HMP/YOI Exeter	1,900,000
HMP Featherstone	1,650,000
HMP/YOI Feltham	40,000,000
HMP Ford	17,500,000
HMP Foston Hall	800,000
HMP Frankland	3,175,000
HMP Full Sutton	6,750,000
HMP Garth	1,220,000
HMP Gartree	600,000
HMP/YOI Glen Parva	22,000,000
HMP/YOI Gloucester	1,210,000
HMP Grendon	8,400,000
HMP/YOI Guys Marsh	1,275,000
HMP Haverigg	880,000
HMP Hewell Grange	Site incl with Brockhill
HMP High Down	Site incl with Downview
HMP/YOI Highpoint	555,000
HMYOI Hindley	10,000,000
HMP Hollesley Bay	350,000
HMP/YOI Holloway	8,500,000
HMP Holme House	2,800,000
HMP Hull	4,200,000
HMYOI Huntercombe	6,000,000
HMP Kingston	4,420,000
HMP Kirkham	3,100,000
HMP Kirklevington Grange	830,000
HMP Lancaster	n/a Leased Site
HMP/YOI Lancaster Farms	1,425,000
HMP Latchmere House	7,500,000
HMP Leeds	7,000,000
HMP Leicester	1,450,000
HMP/YOI Lewes	2,000,000
HMP Leyhill	2,000,000
HMP Lincoln	5,000,000
BMP Lindholme	14,000,000
HMP Littlehey	3,680,000
HMP Liverpool	2,800,000

Establishment	*Land value at 31 March (£)*
HMP Long Lartin	1,390,000
HMYOI Low Newton	650,000
HMP Maidstone	5,600,000
HMP Manchester	4,200,000
HMP Moorland Open (Hatfield)	2,100,000
HMP/YOI Moorland Closed	Site incl.with Lindholme
HMP Morton Hall	3,000,000
HMP The Mount	4,000,000
HMP/YOI New Hall	3,500,000
HMYOI Northallerton	1,500,000
HMP North Sea Camp	250,000
HMP/YOI Norwich	5,300,000
HMP Nottingham	5,100,000
HMYOI Onley	1,165,000
HMP Parkhurst	4,500,000
HMP Pentonville	9,700,000
HMYOI Portland	6,750,000
HMP/YOI Prescoed	200,000
HMP Preston	1,925,000
HMP Ranby	6,500,000
HMYOI RC Reading	3,645,000
HMP Risley	120,000
HMP Rochester	Site incl with Cookham Wood
HMP Send	15,350,000
HMP Shepton Mallet	800,000
HMP Shrewsbury	1,085,000
HMP Spring Hill	285,000
HMP Stafford	2,300,000
HMP Standford Hill	9,500,000
HMP Stocken	1,750,000
HMYOI Stoke Heath	405,000
HMP/YOI Styal	650,000
HMP Sudbury	1,560,000
HMP Swaleside	Site incl with Standford Hill
HMP Swansea	1,150,000
HMYOI Swinfen Hall	510,000
HMYOI Thorn Cross	6,256,000
HMP Usk	1,075,000
HMP The Verne	6,250,000
HMP Wakefield	8,500,000
HMP Wandsworth	13,000,000
HMYOI Warren Hill	66,000
HMP Wayland	6,650,000
HMP Wealstun	11,250,000
HMP Wellingborough	1,281,000
HMYOI Wellington	238,000
HMYOI Wetherby	6,000,000
HMP Whatton	625,000
HMP Whitemoor	2,510,000
HMP Winchester	8,940,000
HMP Woodhill	11,500,000
HMP Wormword Scrubs	30,150,000
HMP Wymott	2,015,000
Totals	592,397,000

Probation Officers

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate what percentage of *(a)* probation officer and *(b)* probation service officer time was spent in direct contact with offenders in each of the last 10 years. [181937]

Maria Eagle: All probation staff in the NFS are employed by the relevant Probation Board, which is responsible for managing workload allocation. It is therefore not possible to provide information at this level. Information is, however, collected on the number of staff employed in offender management roles.

The following table shows the number of staff working in an offender management role from 2003 onwards. Data prior to 2003 were collated by a different source and were incomplete in some categories. They are therefore not directly comparable with the figures collected since that time.

Role	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Increase (2003-07)*
Number of staff in offender management role	17,551.20	17,771.71	18,630.41	19,155.90	18,706.47	—
Percentage	91.79	91.03	90.69	89.81	89.82	6.58
Number of staff in other roles	1,570.60	1,751.27	1,911.65	2,173.08	2120.86	—
Percentage	8.21	8.97	9.37	10.19	10.18	35.04
Total number of staff	19,121.80	19,522.98	20,542.06	21,328.98	20,827.33	—
Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	8.92

Probation: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much of the money budgeted for the end-to-end offender management roll-out was allocated to each probation area in 2007-08; and how that allocation was decided. [181943]

Mr. Hanson: A total of £3.7 million was distributed to probation areas in 2007-08 to cover the costs of phases 2 and 3 of the roll-out of end-to-end offender management in those years. Phase 2, which began in November 2006, was the first phase to cross the custody/community boundary and covers high risk of harm and Prolific Offenders. Phase 3 began in January 2008 and covers offenders serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection.

The costs are estimated using a model developed in NOMS by staff with experience of probation processes, which has been subject of consultation with probation managers. The national figure as calculated using the model was distributed to probation areas using a well-established formula, whose main component is the population in the probation area in question. The actual sums distributed are shown in the following table.

Offender management funding

Probation area	*Total 2007-08 (£ million)*
Avon and Somerset	0.083
Bedfordshire	0.038
Cambridgeshire	0.044
Cheshire	0.062
Cumbria	0.037
Derbyshire	0.063
Devon and Cornwall	0.090
Dorset	0.035
Durham	0.048
Essex	0.086
Gloucestershire	0.032
Hampshire	0.108
Hertfordshire	0.052
Humberside	0.075
Kent	0.097
Lancashire	0.104
Leicestershire	0.064
Lincolnshire	0.042
Norfolk	0.050
Northamptonshire	0.042
North Yorkshire	0.044
Nottinghamshire	0.083
Staffordshire	0.071
Suffolk	0.041
Surrey	0.040
Sussex	0.077
Teesside	0.055
Thames Valley	0.104
Warwickshire	0.029
West Mercia	0.068
Wiltshire	0.037
Greater Manchester	0.210
Merseyside	0.126
Northumbria	0.126
South Yorkshire	0.107
West Midlands	0.241
West Yorkshire	0.173
London	0.568
Dyfed-Powys	0.037
Gwent	0.051
North Wales	0.051
South Wales	0.108
Total	3.699

Probation: Northumbria

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of budget reductions on the support provided for offenders as a result of budget cuts in the Northumbria probation area. [182342]

Maria Eagle: The Northumbria probation area, in conjunction with the regional offender manager for the North East will determine the quantity and quality of services to be provided in the forthcoming year. This will be through service level agreements between the board and the regional offender manager. Northumbria's budget will increase from £25,484 million to £25,995 million, by 2.01 per cent. between 2007-08 and 2008-09. In addition, its three-year corporate plan includes a programme of cash savings of up to £1.3 million from its non-staffing budget.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to prevent reductions in the budget for Inventory of Offenders programmes in the Northumbria probation area. [182343]

Maria Eagle: Any reduction in budget for Inventory of Offenders programmes in the Northumbria area will be with agreement with the regional offender-manager for the North East, through service level agreements and the board will look to deliver against the targets set both nationally and through the regional offender manager. Northumbria's budget will increase from £25,484 million to £25,995 million by 2.01 per cent., between 2007-08 and 2008-09. In addition, its three year corporate plan includes a programme of cash savings of up to £1.3 million from their non staffing budget.

Public Appointments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what additional responsibilities the hon. Member for Liverpool, Garston has taken up since her appointment as Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice. [182739]

Maria Eagle: As Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice matters, I lead on implementation of the commitments made in the Government's response to the Corston report. I will ensure that the actions to address issues for women are given the necessary priority, and that commitments are delivered across Departments. I have convened a ministerial sub-group which met for the first time on 23 January 2008, and will meet on a monthly basis and drive forward the cross-departmental work that will be key to successful delivery. This sub-group will report to the Reducing Re-offending Inter-Ministerial Group as the governing body.

Reoffenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of those entering prisons in England and Wales to serve a custodial sentence in 2006 had served a custodial sentence previously; [178697]

(2) what percentage of those given a custodial sentence had *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more previous community sentences in each of the last three years. [178698]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not available in this form. In previous years information has been published annually in Sentencing Statistics showing the average number of previous convictions/cautions by type of current sentence; the most recently published is for 2005.

My Department is currently conducting a review of the data and methods used to compile these figures, and it is hoped that figures for 2006 and revised figures for earlier years will be published on the Ministry's website later this year.

Whitemoor Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations have been received by *(a)* HM Prison Service, *(b)* officials at his Department and *(c)* Ministers on the conduct of Governor Steve Rodford at HM Prison Whitemoor; what action has been taken in consequence; and if he will make a statement. [182149]

Maria Eagle: It is not Prison Service policy to comment on individual members of staff.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

7. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK will provide for the implementation of the Kivu peace accord and the ending of conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. [182975]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is already providing significant humanitarian and security and justice sector support which will help with the implementation of the peace accord in Kivu. Further support is being considered.

The Maghreb

8. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with EU colleagues on ways of strengthening civil society in the countries of the Maghreb. [182977]

Mr. Malik: I have not had direct discussions with EU counterparts about strengthening Maghreb civil society. I am aware of my hon. Friend's considerable and active interest in the region. DFID supports the Maghreb countries through significant multilateral contributions: support to Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco amounted to over £40 million in 2005. Working closely with the FCO, we encourage the European Commission to engage civil society in its policies and programmes.

Elections

10. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote free and fair elections in developing countries. [182980]

Mr. Thomas: We have provided, and will continue to provide, support to promote free and fair elections in a range of developing countries including, for example, the £8 million to support the 2007 successful elections in Sierra Leone. The Department also provided £25 million for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) elections during 2006-07—our largest contribution to date to a national election—and £6 million to support the last elections in Nigeria. We are already providing support for forthcoming elections in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sudan and Malawi.

Pakistan

11. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department is undertaking with local government in Pakistan. [182981]

Mr. Malik: DFID support for local government in Pakistan focuses on service delivery, capacity building and governance. Specific assistance is being given to the provinces of Punjab and North West Frontier and the federally administered tribal areas. In addition, support is being provided for national programmes to improve local capacity and the use of district funds and to increase participation of citizens, especially women, in decision making processes. In total we have committed £84 million for these programmes.

Africa

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the use of UK development funds in the poorest countries in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [182983]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development receives a wide variety of representations on the use of UK development funds in poor African countries, including from African Governments, regional institutions, the International Financial Institutions, other donors, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and members of the public. Assisting the poorest African countries is a priority of this Government, as it is critical for achievement of the millennium development goals.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* country assistance and *(b)* regional assistance plans his Department expects to (i) produce and (ii) renew in the next 18 months. [181741]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's country and regional plans are produced every three to five years, unless significant changes in the external environment, such as a major political change, necessitate an earlier or later review. They are mandatory for programmes over £20 million a year, but can also be commissioned for smaller programmes in proportion to expenditure. In the next 18 months DFID currently expects to produce 19 country plans; eight in Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Vietnam), nine in Africa (Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, DRC, Sudan, Rwanda) and two in the Middle East (Palestine and Yemen). These figures are based on current plans and may be subject to changes in country circumstances.

Pakistan: Education

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes he has co-financed in Pakistan to promote the education of women and girls since 2004. [182262]

Mr. Malik: DFID has co-financed programmes with UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank to promote the education of women and girls in Pakistan since 2004.

The sum of £6 million was committed in 2006 to UNDP's Gender Support Programme (2006-11). This includes training of women in the garment industry, training of women councillors, and support to improve the way in which education sector budgets address gender issues.

Another £3.5 million was committed in 2007 to UNICEF's Gender Education Policy Support Project which is supporting the development and promotion of policies that address the problem of gender disparity in Pakistan's education system.

A further £0.7 million was also committed in 2007 to support a World Bank project to establish a National Education Assessment System that has significant gender components. DFID funds are helping to improve education policy by assessing gender differences in learning achievements in both primary and secondary education.

St Helena: Airports

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the building of an airport on St Helena; and if he will make a statement. [182377]

Mr. Malik: We have received two bids which we are evaluating. We expect to reach a decision in the second quarter of the year.

Zambia: Floods

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to the Government of Zambia and neighbouring states to manage the consequences of recent flooding in the region. [182173]

Gillian Merron: In Zambia, an initial assessment in six districts in Southern Province shows that almost 4,500 houses have collapsed, and almost 3,500 additional households have been affected. The Zambia Government is indicating that it have the resources to respond to the needs in the assessed areas, with support from in-country private sector donations. They have already provided 15,000 mT of maize for response during 2007-08, and have released $3.5 million for the procurement of relief items such as tents, blankets and mosquito nets.

In neighbouring Mozambique, DFID has provided some £97,000, through Save the Children, for the delivery of emergency water and sanitation to 10,000 affected people. The UN is also drawing on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for priority operations in the humanitarian response. DFID is the biggest contributor to the CERF, having provided £40 million in 2008. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched a preliminary appeal for $7.3 million to address the immediate humanitarian needs of up to 150,000 people across the region. DFID is finalising its response to this appeal.

Assessments of the situation by Government, UN and NGO agencies are ongoing, and DFID continues to monitor the situation closely. We will respond as unmet humanitarian needs are identified.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 31 January 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by the Electoral Commission in each year since it was established; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183356]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not hold a record of this information, that it does not own any vehicles, and that it encourages staff to use public transport when travelling on official business.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Archives

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the Civil Service grade is of the person responsible for decisions on what to archive from the No 10 Press Office; [181082]

(2) what his Department's policy is on *(a)* destroying, *(b)* retaining and *(c)* archiving files in the Press Office at No 10 Downing Street. [181173]

Mr. Watson: It is Cabinet Office policy, in line with other Departments across Whitehall, to select files for permanent preservation in accordance with records management guidance issued by the National Archives (TNA). Further details of this guidance can be found on the TNA's website at:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records_management

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what considerations the Families at Risk Review gave to measures to combat violence against women; [182677]

(2) what meetings he has held since 27 June 2007 with representatives of *(a)* rape crisis centres, *(b)* women's refuges, *(c)* sexual assault referral centres, *(d)* prostitution, trafficking and sexual exploitation support services and *(e)* other third sector organisations dealing with violence against women; [182733]

(3) what research the Social Exclusion Task Force has conducted on the issue of violence against women; and what steps the Social Exclusion Task Force has taken to develop measures to prevent violence against women. [182734]

Phil Hope: The Families At Risk Review identified domestic violence as a parent-based risk factor that could impact on children in its interim analytical report published in June 2007. A literature review considered several family risk factors in detail, including domestic violence, and a focus group was held with mothers who had experienced domestic violence.

This work will continue to be taken forward across Government to ensure that 'think family' becomes embedded across Whitehall and at a local level.

Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Departmental ICT: Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff working in the Cabinet Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181400]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in his Office earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167199]

Mr. Watson: The number of staff earning over £100,000 in the Cabinet Office in each year since 1997 are as follows:

Year (financial)	*Number of staff earning over £100,000 in each year*
1997-98	*
1998-99	*
1999-2000	10
2000-01	10
2001-02	20
2002-03	20
2003-04	30
2004-05	40
2005-06	30
2006-07	30

Notes:
1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
2. Numbers less than 5 have been represented by *

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183194]

Mr. Watson: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Records: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 826W, on departmental records: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, what the timetable is for the transfer of the files of the former Deputy Prime Minister's Office to the National Archives. [181334]

Mr. Watson: The files of the former Deputy Prime Minister's Office will be transferred to the National Archives by 2037 in accordance with section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958 which calls for records to be transferred by the time they are 30-years-old.

Emergency Services: Call Centres

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many emergency services call centre staff are on Civil Service pay grade AA, broken down by emergency service, including coastguard; [183342]

(2) how many members of staff work at emergency services call centres, broken down by emergency service, including coastguard. [183343]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally.

Higher Civil Servants: Females

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of the Senior Civil Service staff employed at No 10 Downing Street are female; and what percentage they represent of all staff. [182787]

Mr. Watson: For these purposes No. 10 Downing Street forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The following answer relates to the whole of the Cabinet Office.

Information for 2006 can be found on the Office for National Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

Information for 2007 will be published in due course.

Ministerial Allowances

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse of Ministerial allowances was *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each Government department in each of the last 10 years. [178704]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: Information relating to allowances paid to Ministers in their capacity as Members of Parliament or peers is a matter for the House authorities.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), has had with trades unions since June 2007 in the course of her official duties; and for what purpose such meetings were held. [181330]

Mr. Watson: Ministers and civil servants meet the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) and the individual trade unions regularly. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181810]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) started implementing a Carbon Management Programme, developed with the Carbon Trust, in 2007. This will help to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions on the FCO's UK estate in 2008-09. The programme includes technological, procurement, transport, housekeeping and awareness raising responses to the issue.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of a referendum on the Lisbon treaty; and if he will make a statement. [178586]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply

Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 the Electoral Commission is responsible for the conduct of referendums, including estimation of the costs. The Department has made no detailed estimate of the costs of a national referendum.

As a guide, we might expect the cost of running a UK-wide referendum to be similar to the cost of a general election. The general election in 2005 cost in excess of £80 million.

In addition to the costs of conducting a referendum, the Electoral Commission would incur its own additional costs. These costs would be reflected in the Electoral Commission's estimate of its income and expenditure, which it is required to submit to Speaker's Committee annually. If approved, the money comes directly from HM Treasury to the Commission.

I understand that the Commission currently estimates that these costs would depend on the level of public information activity required, but would likely be in the range of £10 million to £30 million.

Gaza: Electricity

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on civilians of the closure of Gaza's electricity generating capacity on 20 January 2008 due to shortage of fuel. [183625]

Dr. Howells: The Government continue to believe that Israeli security and Palestinian suffering and hardship need to be addressed together. We deplore the rocket attacks that Israel suffers. We have also continued to make clear that we do not agree with Israel's action to close the Gaza crossings.

The Gaza strip requires an estimated 230 megawatts of power daily, at this time of year, of which up to 55 megawatts is normally provided by the Gaza Power Generating Company (GPGC). On 20 January the GPGC stopped producing power when its reserves became too low to continue. During this time, the majority of the Gaza Strip had no electricity for at least eight hours according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Many areas suffered power cuts of up to 12 hours because of breakdowns in Gaza's ageing electricity network.

This had an alarming impact on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Power cuts mean that Gaza's water authority has to rely on diesel powered generators OCHA reported that by 21 January there was only enough fuel to pump water from 40 of its 130 wells and to pump sewage at 21 of its 33 pumping stations. At least 40 per cent. of Gazans had no running water during this time. 30 per cent. of the population still had no water by 23 January. Hospitals ran reduced services between 19 to 21 January to preserve their fuel stocks.

Limited fuel supplies were resumed as of 22 January enabling power cuts to be reduced. We welcome the announcement by the Israeli Government on 27 January that it would resume the supply of food and fuel to Gaza to pre-17 January levels.

Gaza: Fuels

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on easing the severe shortages of fuel in Gaza. [183626]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a joint statement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 11 January in which they expressed their deep concern about

> "the growing humanitarian impact of the restrictions by the Government of Israel on industrial diesel supplies to Gaza, particularly on the most vulnerable sections of the population."

They urged Israel to lift all restrictions.

On 17 January, I raised these concerns with the Israeli ambassador. Our embassy in Tel Aviv also continues to raise our concerns on a regular basis.

On 21 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development again voiced their concerns. In a joint statement, they stated:

> "We do not support Israel's decision to close all crossings to Gaza."

On 24 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called Foreign Minister Livni and reiterated these concerns.

We welcome the announcement by the Israeli Government on 27 January that it would resume the supply of food and fuel to Gaza to pre-17 January levels.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government recognise the Government of Mr Kibaki as the Government of Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [183345]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 223W.

Sudan: International Assistance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the mechanisms in place to co-ordinate the efforts of UNAMID, civilian police, the military, human rights workers and other humanitarian organisations active in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [178807]

Meg Munn: We have not yet assessed the effectiveness of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur's (UNAMID) co-ordination with humanitarian organisations in Darfur, as many of the relevant structures and personnel are still being put in place. At full strength, UNAMID will consist of approximately 19,500 military personnel, 6,500 civilian police and 5,000 other civilian staff, including a section dedicated to human rights. These components are co-ordinated by the UNAMID mission leadership, headed by UN-African Union Joint Special Representative Adada. UNAMID has appointed a number of humanitarian affairs officers to liaise and co-ordinate with the UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations in Darfur. We welcome the co-ordination mechanisms and we are monitoring their effectiveness as UNAMID deploys.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to its international partners on communicating and raising public awareness of the mandate for the UNAMID police component in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [183315]

Meg Munn: We have not made representations about the mandate for the police component of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Along with our international partners, we have been drawing attention to the need for all parties to facilitate UNAMID's deployment as an effective force, including the police component.

At full strength, the civilian police component of UNAMID will be just under 6,500 officers. At present, there are about 1,400 civilian police in UNAMID who transferred from the police component of the African Union Mission in Sudan.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the co-ordination of civilian protection in Darfur since UNMIS withdrew from the region; and if he will make a statement. [183316]

Meg Munn: We have not yet assessed the effectiveness of the co-ordination of civilian protection in Darfur, as many of the relevant structures and personnel continue to be put in place following the assumption of peacekeeping authority by the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) on 31 December 2007. UNAMID is working with other UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations to co-ordinate civilian protection in Darfur. Those organisations working with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in Darfur before 31 December 2007 are transferring contact to UNAMID. Some former UNMIS officials have moved to UNAMID, which will include a civilian element of approximately 5,000 staff when fully established. We are closely monitoring the transition period to ensure effective co-ordination of civilian protection in the region.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards the designation of an agency to replace UNMIS as leading the co-ordination of civilian protection in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [183366]

Meg Munn: The UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur, which assumed authority in Darfur on 31 December 2007, is mandated by UN Security Council resolution 1769 to protect civilians and ensure the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian workers. The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur is working with other UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations to co-ordinate civilian protection in Darfur. Operations led by the UN Mission in Sudan in Darfur, prior to 31 December, are transferring to UN-African Union Mission in Darfur, which will include a civilian element of approximately 5,000 staff when fully established. We are closely monitoring the transition period to ensure effective co-ordination of civilian protection in the region.

Visas: Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visas for entry into the United Kingdom were issued by each issuing post in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [181626]

Dr. Howells: The number of visas issued by each visa-issuing post in the years 2003-07 inclusive is given in the following table.

Number of visa applications issued for all the posts in last five years

Post	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Abidjan (BE)[1]	2,027	2,401	0	0	0
Abu Dhabi (BE)	20,583	21,280	17,463	20,338	17,997
Abuja (BHC)	22,479	32,051	37,424	28,973	29,841
Accra (BHC)	36,230	32,480	24,392	22,489	20,330
Addis Ababa (BE)	5,147	6,445	6,824	3,760	4,642
Algiers (BE)	11,148	8,911	7,176	8,386	9,058
Almaty (BE)	6,809	8,354	10,067	15,633	15,674
Almaty (BE)[2]	6,809	8,354	10,067	15,633	10,169
Amman (BE)	11,271	14,135	12,686	14,572	11,561
Amsterdam (BCG)	11,746	10,199	7,313	6,452	7,038
Ankara (BE)	5,003	14,632	20,717	15,776	18,261
Antananarivo (BE)[3]	289	293	280	0	0
Ashgabat (BE)	1,626	2,297	1,800	1,226	1,046
Asmara (BE)	0	333	307	177	46
Athens (BE)	829	1,168	1,718	1,371	1,328
Baghdad (BE)	0	744	740	872	958
Bahrain (BE)	10,913	9,556	9,514	10,826	10,276
Baku (BE)	3,078	3,945	4,421	4,772	5,029
Bandar Seri Begawan (BE)	1,494	1,472	2,221	3,349	2,070
Bangkok (BE)	32,358	40,192	38,054	37,884	40,148
Banjul (BHC)	4,701	4,749	4,962	4,335	4,094
Basra (BCG)[4]	0	0	37	128	0
Beijing (BE)	51,165	56,982	53,606	70,120	71,248
Beirut (BE)	7,157	8,668	8,709	7,193	8,546
Belgrade (BE)	15,183	14,719	14,802	15,657	15,282
Belmopan (BHC)	60	40	0	0	0
Berlin (BE)	439	348	343	352	354
Bogota (BE)	13,548	13,700	13,692	14,864	16,871
Brasilia	134	119	113	223	200
Bratislava (BE)	20,884	266	239	278	96
Bridgetown (BHC)	1,410	1,929	2,038	2,764	2,122
Brussels (BE)	4,748	5,974	6,409	6,002	5,813
Bucharest (BE)	27,744	27,663	32,210	34,550	1,252
Budapest (BE)	1,963	1,774	2,009	1,953	1,304
Buenos Aires (BE)	623	752	965	1,055	1,070
Cairo (BE)	20,753	20,879	21,769	25,033	24,815
Canberra (BHC)	32,797	39,300	39,164	38,267	33,143
Caracas (BE)	455	488	789	1,091	1,402
Casablanca (BCG)[5]	5,883	2,921	5,796	5,381	0
Chennai (BDHC)	50,483	64,930	75,870	93,899	97,172
Chicago (BCG)	13,096	17,954	16,065	15,333	14,905
Chisinau	0	1,144	2,739	2,794	2,209
Chongqing (BCG)	3,446	4,433	5,515	6,541	7,528
Colombo (BHC)	19,653	20,756	19,184	23,474	20,780
Copenhagen (BE)	3,063	3,301	3,245	3,533	3,307
Dakar (BE)	1,399	1,399	1,657	2,371	2,805
Damascus (BE)	5,664	5,611	5,951	7,526	2,546
Dar Es Salaam (BHC)	6,919	7,392	6,767	7,103	6,536
Dhaka (BHC)	23,004	21,024	27,776	29,403	25,139
Doha (BE)	11,560	12,116	13,368	18,218	18,265
Dubai (BE)	31,858	35,540	36,711	44,539	38,570
Dublin (BE)	12,325	11,727	12,852	13,837	11,803
Dushanbe (BE)	0	0	4	23	14
Dusseldorf (BE)	31,974	32,610	29,328	27,345	20,462
Freetown (BHC)	6,076	5,191	5,160	5,443	3,928
Gaborone (BHC)	1,216	1,906	1,669	1,866	1,896
Geneva (BC)	10,016	10,346	10,653	10,718	9,531
Georgetown (BHC)	2,227	1,423	3,267	3,556	2,943
Guangzhou (BC)	25,455	32,713	26,372	31,075	33,978
Hanoi (BE)	3,721	4,813	4,933	5,487	6,464
Harare (BHC)	16,744	19,207	15,683	11,842	7,870
Havana (BE)	2,187	1,909	1,997	2,468	2,222
Helsinki (BE)	840	990	1,077	1,239	1,261
Hong Kong (BC)	7,004	11,508	11,821	12,700	12,750
Islamabad (BHC)	77,026	96,027	88,040	108,062	91,912
Istanbul (BCG)	52,527	29,810	38,309	52,209	53,694
Jakarta (BE)	12,725	13,442	13,285	14,382	16,392
Jedda (BCG)	17,144	20,349	19,436	20,946	20,825
Jerusalem (BCG)	1,844	1,720	1,725	1,631	1,517

Number of visa applications issued for all the posts in last five years

Post	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Kampala (BHC)	10,972	7,698	6,433	7,008	7,407
Karachi (BDHC)	2,167	9,470	20,395	25,936	15,110
Kathmandu (BE)	3,821	3,842	9,183	13,890	11,162
Khartoum (BE)	4,794	5,057	5,614	7,147	6,806
Kiev (BE)	20,780	27,040	27,930	31,759	33,061
Kingston (BHC)	15,717	12,773	10,370	10,263	10,974
Kinshasa (BE)	2,073	3,062	3,322	2,827	3,282
Kolkata (BDHC)	11,337	12,857	14,588	18,319	17,156
Kuala Lumpur (BE)	5,016	10,158	8,724	9,078	10,786
Kuwait City (BE)	44,147	41,545	47,111	46,869	41,971
La Paz (BE)	166	244	213	334	296
Lagos (BDHC)	62,595	86,739	84,526	74,577	74,059
Lilongwe (BHC)	562	1,065	1,693	2,518	3,238
Lima (BE)	3,761	3,791	3,624	4,267	4,436
Lisbon (BE)	2,102	2,639	2,495	3,300	2,092
Los Angeles (BCG)	22,169	29,440	27,790	28,468	25,726
Luanda (BE)	2,419	3,000	3,131	3,173	3,660
Lusaka (BHC)	4,454	5,116	5,127	5,377	5,377
Luxembourg (BE)	507	516	0	0	0
Madrid (BC)	6,377	8,547	8,380	7,742	6,923
Manila (BE)	25,173	26,457	29,387	34,178	33,737
Maputo (BHC)	778	850	818	147	0
Maseru (BHC)[6]	121	6	0	0	0
Mbabane (BHC)[7]	397	370	0	0	0
Mexico City (BE)	1,134	2,582	3,213	3,441	3,353
Minsk (BE)	9,185	10,508	10,456	10,144	10,153
Montevideo (BE)	58	64	56	67	61
Moscow (BE)	78,178	92,669	104,747	119,513	120,222
Mumbai (BHC)	85,072	102,861	117,708	136,613	127,708
Muscat (BE)	10,686	9,813	9,664	9,758	9,491
Nairobi (BHC)	15,455	16,179	12,822	13,846	13,455
Nassau (BHC)[8]	219	91	0	0	0
New Delhi (BHC)	76,677	84,694	99,386	114,986	109,756
New York (BCG)	49,198	59,278	54,681	54,079	47,801
Nicosia (BHC)	6,073	5,117	4,346	7,277	4,816
Oslo (BE)	4,226	4,054	4,027	4,159	3,269
Ottawa (BHC)	19,381	22,058	21,344	20,304	18,435
Panama City (BE)	242	263	387	181	150
Paris (BE)	26,237	27,526	25,965	28,725	21,857
Port Louis (BHC)	2,584	3,184	3,659	3,348	3,029
Port Moresby (BHC)	130	124	157	107	80
Port of Spain (BHC)	1,935	3,096	3,228	2,856	2,274
Port Vila[9]	8	2	5	0	0
Prague (BE)	3,215	1,536	1,281	2,167	2,911
Pretoria (BCG)	27,490	34,518	33,761	24,300	21,534
Quito (BE)	2,521	2,441	2,393	2,941	2,618
Rabat (BE)	0	0	0	0	8,011
Rangoon (BE)	1,150	1,225	1,781	1,725	1,939
Reykjavik (BE)	319	411	394	684	289
Riga (BE)	1,567	1,843	1,928	2,179	2,215
Rio de Janeiro	1,445	2,793	7,232	6,246	6,877
Riyadh (BE)	22,020	26,827	30,747	36,207	40,069
Rome (BE)	12,975	13,036	13,910	12,213	8,991
San Salvador (BE)[10]	25	0	0	0	0
Sanaa (BE)	2,657	2,866	2,653	2,905	2,495
Santiago (BE)	1,027	987	1,271	1,155	1,051
Santo DOMINGO (BE)	1,074	1,058	1,420	1,280	1,563
Sarajevo (BE)	3,070	2,963	2,964	3,012	3,098
Seoul (BE)	2,858	9,299	10,937	9,934	9,415
Shanghai (BC)	21,912	27,800	27,388	39,280	40,349
Singapore (BHC)	5,005	7,216	7,046	7,075	7,349
Skopje (BE)	4,820	4,336	4,548	5,252	6,045
Sofia (BE)	21,372	20,987	23,517	25,275	453
St. Petersburg (BCG)	13,472	15,927	19,728	20,113	22,073
Stockholm (BE)	4,616	4,573	4,615	4,198	3,416
Suva (BHC)	1,235	1,144	964	757	989
Taipei (BTO)	31,717	37,605	35,614	38,300	34,532
Tallinn (BE)	682	685	891	1,095	955
Tashkent (BE)	2,590	2,155	2,241	1,392	2,644
Tbilisi (BE)	2,935	3,042	3,293	3,852	4,291
Tegucigalpa (BE)[11]	562	0	0	0	0
Tehran (BE)	23,668	27,951	28,526	35,777	31,754
Tel Aviv (BE)	1,481	2,470	3,976	2,548	1,906
Tirana (BE)	4,419	6,814	10,063	8,334	6,952
Tokyo (BE)	6,232	17,737	17,246	16,956	14,855
Tripoli (BE)	10,838	13,270	14,655	16,342	11,548
Tunis (BE)	4,151	6,044	6,009	6,037	6,043
UKvisas, London[12]	0	79	875	841	1,049
Ulaanbaatar (BE)	1,019	837	797	1,139	2,118
Valletta (BHC)	1,116	697	503	469	381
Victoria (BHC)	185	270	278	253	202
Vienna (BE)	2,914	2,599	2,656	2,595	2,119
Vilnius (BE)	1,802	685	330	335	326
Warsaw (BE)	3,713	2,275	1,172	1,345	1,419
Wellington (BHC)	9,148	10,232	10,376	10,819	10,121
Windhoek (BHC)	1,101	1,782	537	254	0
Yaounde	2,990	2,802	2,908	2,659	3,169
Yekaterinburg (BCG)	4,424	6,399	7,777	8,778	8,602
Yerevan (BE)	1,072	1,221	1,441	1,592	1,719
Zagreb (BE)	14,811	14,508	14,660	2,901	974
Grand total	1,779,814	2,007,207	2,086,078	2,261,905	2,086,906

[1] Closed May 2006

[2] Closed August 2007.

[3] Closed August 2005.

[4] Moved to air station March 2007.

[5] Closed October 2007.

[6] Closed August 2005.

[7] Closed September 2005.

[8] Closed April 2005.

[9] Closed October 2005.

[10] Closed August 2003.

[11] Closed January 2004.

[12] Diplomatic visas.

BE = British Embassy
BHC = British High Commission
BDHC = British Deputy High Commission
BCG = British Consulate-General
BTO = British Trade Office
RO = regional Office

Note:
The data is unpublished and should be used for information purposes only.
Also this data includes all the endorsement category.

Date Range:
1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007.

Source:
PMAF Search Screen

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182999]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure for advertising in the Northern Ireland Office is held for the current financial year to date plus the previous five financial years.

The following table provides details of the NIO's advertising expenditure (excluding agencies and NDPBs) and shows this as a percentage of the Department's total expenditure (excluding agencies and NDPBs) in each year since 2002-03.

	Advertising expenditure (£)	Percentage of advertising expenditure against departmental expenditure
2002-03	570,781	0.062
2003-04	353,114	0.040
2004-05	548,451	0.059
2005-06	159,146	0.015
2006-07	190,204	0.018
Total	1,821,696	0.037

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183193]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on external contracts with public relations companies (excluding agencies and NDPBs) in each of the last 10 years and the number of contracts held in that time. The information provided is not centrally located. To provide information prior to 2002-03 would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of public relations contracts	Value of contracts (£)
1998-99	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a
2002-03	2	39,672
2003-04	4	160,397
2004-05	3	153,723
2005-06	2	91,858
2006-07	4	146,906
2007-08	3	121,504
Total	18	714,060

n/a = Not available

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of crimes which involve bogus callers. [180078]

Mr. Coaker: Crimes involving bogus callers can have a devastating effect on an individual's or even a whole community's quality of life. This is particularly the case with older and more vulnerable victims. That is why we continue in our work to confront and tackle crime and have been involved in a number of campaigns and initiatives relating to distraction burglary.

The Government, working with third sector organisations, has produced a wide range of tools for practitioners (such as good practice guides) and information for potential victims, carers and those in regular contact with the vulnerable. This has focused on encouraging the reporting of bogus callers and promoting positive doorstep behaviour.

To enhance the police response to distraction burglary, we have worked with the Association of Chief Police Officers to establish a national distraction burglary database and intelligence network to facilitate the sharing of intelligence and support joint operations between forces and with other enforcement bodies including Trading Standards. We are currently working with the water industry to explore what can be done to tackle crimes involving bogus water officials.

Detection Rates

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of each category of crime was cleared up by police in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [180687]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following table.

Percentage rates for both total detections and sanction detections have been provided for the 10 main offence groups.

The emphasis on sanction detections means that overall (total) detection figures are a less meaningful comparative measure of police performance. The numbers of non sanction detections more than halved in 2006-07. This is a continuation of the trend seen in recent years in the use of these methods of clear up following local policy decisions taken by many forces in order to reduce bureaucracy.

Total detection rates and sanction detection rates by main offence group, England and Wales 2002-03 to 2006-07[1,2]

Percentage

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Offence group	Total detection rate	Sanction detection rate	Total detection rate	Sanction detection rate	Total detection rate	Sanction detection rate	Total detection rate	Sanction detection rate	Total detection rate	Sanction detection rate
Violence against the person	54	36	50	33	53	36	54	42	51	46
Sexual offences[3]	39	32	36	30	34	28	35	31	32	30
Robbery	19	17	19	17	20	17	18	17	19	18
Burglary	12	11	13	12	13	12	14	13	14	14

Total detection rates and sanction detection rates by main offence group, England and Wales 2002-03 to 2006-07[1, 2]

Percentage

Offence group	*2002-03* *Total detection rate*	*2002-03* *Sanction detection rate*	*2003-04* *Total detection rate*	*2003-04* *Sanction detection rate*	*2004-05* *Total detection rate*	*2004-05* *Sanction detection rate*	*2005-06* *Total detection rate*	*2005-06* *Sanction detection rate*	*2006-07* *Total detection rate*	*2006-07* *Sanction detection rate*
Offences against vehicles	9	8	9	8	10	9	1.0	10	11	10
Other theft offences	21	19	20	18	20	18	22	20	23	22
Fraud and Forgery	26	23	26	23	26	24	29	27	28	27
Criminal damage	13	10	13	9	14	10	15	12	15	13
Drug offences	93	85	93	81	95	73	95	92	95	94
Other miscellaneous offences	76	70	73	68	70	65	71	68	70	68
Total recorded crime	23	19	23	19	26	20	27	24	27	26

[1] Total detection rates comprise sanction detections and non-sanction detections as a percentage of offences detected.

[2] Sanction detections include offences which are cleared up through a formal sanction, i.e. by an offender being charged or summonsed; being cautioned, reprimanded or given final warning; having an offence taken into consideration; receiving a penalty notice for disorder; or receiving a warning for cannabis possession. Non-sanction detections comprise those where the offence is counted as cleared up but no further action is taken. The overall detection rate has been affected by forces limiting the usage of non-sanction-detections.

[3] The classification and coverage of offences included in the sexual offences group changed from 1 May 2004 following the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This added a number of new offences and the definitions of other offences were broadened and therefore will have effected the detection rates.

Immigration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plan to take to make immigration law easier to understand. [180079]

Mr. Byrne: Following the review of the immigration system in July 2006, we made a commitment to strengthen and simplify immigration legislation—replacing existing laws in this area and establishing a clear, consistent and coherent legal framework which supports the control of our borders and the management of migration.

An initial consultation paper "Simplifying Immigration Law - An Initial Consultation" published on 6 June 2007, set out principles for simplification and invited views. An analysis of responses was published on 6 December 2007.

We will be consulting on more specific proposals for simplification shortly. We will then publish draft clauses for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Subject to the parliamentary timetable, this will allow us to introduce comprehensive new legislation in the next session.

Internet

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to educate people about the identity risks they face when providing personal information to social networking sites. [182732]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have taken a number of steps to educate the public on the risks of identity theft. The Identity Fraud Steering Committee was set up to put in place measures to tackle identity fraud and has produced the website: www.identitytheft.org.uk to provide advice to the public on how to protect against the threat of identity fraud.

Further to this the joint Government and industry initiative GetSafeOnline gives the public detailed advice on identity risks on social networking sites.

The Government are about to publish a Social Networking Guidance which has been produced in partnership with industry. In developing this Guidance, the providers of such services have shown great commitment to helping ensure the safety of their users, and to educating them on possible consequences of making public personal information.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents involving bladed weapons were reported in the last year for which figures are available; [178232]

(2) how many incidents were reported of attacks on police officers involving bladed weapons in the last year for which figures are available. [178233]

Mr. McNulty: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences where knives or other offensive weapons were used, since details of the individual circumstances of offences are not recorded. From April 2007, police forces are providing data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 162360, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on benefit claimants. [171147]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the hon. Member's question on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1512W.

Police: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in (i) knife-related, (ii) firearms-related and (iii) other incidents in each of the last five years. [178934]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The numbers of fatal, serious and other assaults on police officers have been published each year by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in their annual report. HMIC have advised that these assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published.

These data are not available by the method of assault. The available data are given in the table as follows.

Assaults[1] on police officers 2000-01 to 2004-05[2,3]

England and Wales	*Fatal injury*	*Serious and other injury*
2000-01[4,8]	1	12,255
2001-02[8]	1	13,096
2002-03[4,8]	4	14,360
2003-04[5,7]	0	11,654
2004-05[6]	0	13,087

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] HMIC did not publish a force breakdown of assaults prior to 1999-2000. HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series of these data to be published.

[4] Northamptonshire was not able to separate serious and other assaults from 2000-01 to 2002-03.

[5] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04, however the number of overall assaults was 462 and 1,112 respectively.

[6] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2004-05, however the number of overall assaults was 521 and 910 respectively.

[7] Greater Manchester was not able to provide data in 2003-04.

[8] Metropolitan police was unable to provide data in 2000-01 and was unable to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults from 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Sweden

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what official meetings the hon. Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) held during his recent visit to Sweden. [182914]

Mr. Coaker: During my visit to Sweden on 10 January and 11 January 2008, I had meetings with representatives of the following organisations:

the Ministry of Justice;
the Ministry for Integration and Equality;
the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs;
the National Board of Health and Welfare;
the Stockholm Prostitution Unit; and
Sex Workers Allies in Sweden (SANS).

I also met the National Rapporteur on Trafficking, the Chief Constable of Stockholm and representatives from the Gender Equality Ombudsman, the Women's Forum and the Ethical Council for Pay Telephone Services.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the budget for adult education provision, excluding basic literacy and numeracy, has been in each of the last five years. [178558]

Bill Rammell: Investment in adult participation funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will increase to around £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of over 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. This will support on average over 3 million adult learners (aged 19 plus) per year over the next three years.

The Skills for Life (SfL) strategy was launched in 2001 to meet the basic numeracy and literacy skills needs of all post-16 learners. Between 2002-03 and 2005-06 total SfL funding through further education increased from £421 million to £736 million. This investment has helped support 1.75 million post-16 learners to achieve their first basic literacy/numeracy qualifications since 2001.

SfL figures for adults (aged 19 plus) are available from 2006-07 and are provided in the following table alongside total adult participation investment.

Total LSC adult participation funding and adult Skills for Life investment

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Adult participation	[1]2,548	[2]3,064	3,215	3,306	3,599
Investment in adult (19 plus) Skills for Life (for planning purposes)	579	587	620	647	668

[1] Figures are derived from LSC published accounts.

[2] Figures include total DIUS participation funding from LSC Grant Letter 2008-09 and unlike the figures derived from the LSC account include investment through Offender Learning and Skills Service and university for Industry.

Departments: Committees

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1619-20W, on Departments: committees, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* most recent minutes of each organisation. [181805]

Mr. Lammy: The agendas, and where available the minutes, of EU committees are issued by the relevant EU institution and are available from the organisation concerned or from the relevant website. The agendas for council working group meetings are available from the EU Council Secretariat, however, the meetings are held in confidence and no public minutes are issued.

Education: Prisoners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what courses are offered to offenders serving custodial sentences. [178086]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Offender learning is currently delivered through the Learning and Skills Council-led Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) delivery arrangements introduced in July 2006. This includes an 'Offender's Learning Journey' which sets out a broader richer curriculum offer, comparable to that found in the outside community. Provision is demand led with individual learner needs identified through an early intense assessment process and development of an individual learning plan (ILP) which sets out how individual learner needs will be met.

In addition to this, higher education courses are available to those who are both suitable and eligible to participate.

Graduates: Debts

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to minimise debt among young graduates from poor backgrounds. [179649]

Bill Rammell: The current package of student support is the most comprehensive ever provided. From 2008/09 onwards, we will help more students with non-repayable finance. Two-thirds of full-time students will receive a full or partial grant, and non-means-tested loans will be available to all.

Student loans are repayable only after leaving higher education and repayments only commence when income exceeds the earnings threshold[1]. All borrowers, regardless of their age or background, benefit from a zero real rate of interest and the option to defer repayments if they are in financial difficulties. Those who are due to start repaying their loans from 2012 will be able to take a repayment holiday for up to five years. For those who never earn enough to afford to repay, outstanding loan balances will eventually be written off.

Not all young graduate debt is student loan debt. Some young graduates borrow elsewhere at commercial interest rates. Current provisions should minimise the need for those who hold student loans to top up these loans by borrowing elsewhere.

Higher Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many educational facilities were awarded university status in each year since 1997. [179389]

Bill Rammell: The following table lists all the institutions which have been granted university title since 1997.

Universities created post 1997

University	*Date it achieved university title*
University of Gloucestershire	10 October 2001
University of the Arts, London	10 May 2004
Roehampton University	22 June 2004
University of Bolton	25 January 2005
University of Winchester	29 June 2005
Canterbury Christ Church University	12 July 2005
Liverpool Hope University	22 July 2005
University of Chester	22 July 2005
Bath Spa University	5 August 2005
University of Worcester	24 August 2005
University of Northampton	25 August 2005
University of Chichester	12 October 2005
Edge Hill University	9 May 2006
York St John University	10 July 2006
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine[1]	8 July 2007
University of Cumbria	1 August 2007
Bucks New University	10 October 2007

[1] Although the word 'university' does not appear in its title, it is defined as a university in its charter.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many educational establishments had their university status removed in each year since 1997. [179390]

Bill Rammell: No institutions granted university title by the Privy Council have had that title removed.

Vocational Training: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what cost-benefit assessment has been made of Train to Gain; [181757]

(2) what cost-benefit assessment has been made of skills brokers. [181758]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is a new service specifically designed to support employers in identifying and then meeting the skills they need to drive their business forward. The design of Train to Gain was based on the employer training pilots which were rigorously evaluated by the Institute of Employment Studies and the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Launched in April 2006, Train to Gain reached full national coverage in England in August 2006. In its first year of full operation it engaged more than 52,000 employers and some 240,000 learners started on a programme of activity, many for the first time. We have set out our ambitions to reach more employers and to drive up levels of investment in skills in Plan for Growth, copies of which are in the Library of the

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[1] For pre-1998 loans, the threshold is 85 per cent. of national average earnings (currently approximately £25,000). For post-1998 income-contingent loans, borrowers repay 9 per cent. of income exceeding £15,000.

House. In support of our expansion plans, we have a major programme of evaluation under way for all aspects of Train to Gain and will expect to publish, through the LSC, the conclusions of those evaluations, including the benefits accrued. Employers engaged continue to express high satisfaction with the skills brokerage, with the latest figures showing that 86 per cent. of employers are either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Females: Alternatives to Prison

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on alternatives to imprisonment for women. [164687]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: I have had many discussions with ministerial colleagues on this subject. On 6 December 2007, the Government published its response to Baroness Corston's Review, which is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/gov-resp-corston-review.htm.

In our response, we agreed to promote the effective use of community orders as an alternative to custody. They will emphasise a demanding regime of contact hours, and a mixture of punitive and rehabilitative requirements, including a more extensive use of curfews. In addition, in our response to Baroness Corston's Review, we made a commitment to set up projects, which will report next April, to look at alternatives to custody and review the future of the women's prison estate.

OLYMPICS

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff of the Government Olympics Executive were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181351]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 359W.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library the latest copy of the Olympic Delivery Authority's *(a)* register of interests and *(b)* register of gifts and hospitality. [183324]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority intends to publish *(a)* its register of board members interests, and *(b)* its gifts and hospitality register in the first quarter of 2008.

A copy will be placed in the House Library at that time.

Olympic Games 2012: Housing

Mr. Love: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many local authority tenants will be displaced from their housing as a result of the 2012 Olympics; how their housing needs will be met; and if she will make a statement. [181822]

Tessa Jowell: The only social housing tenants affected by the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Olympic and Paralympic Games were at Clays Lane Housing Estate, which was located north of the Stratford City site. The estate comprised 450 social housing units, within which there were 425 residents who needed re-housing.

Working closely with a wide partnership of social housing providers over a period of 18 months, the LDA established a range of options from which tenants could choose to relocate. All tenants were offered the opportunity to relocate to an assured tenancy or equivalent and the vast majority of tenants relocated to properties that they themselves had selected as best matching their requirements. Tenants were able to bid for social rented properties covered by local authority nominations and available through choice-based letting schemes, and were prioritised in the allocation procedures. They were also able to choose to relocate to properties owned by a wide range of registered social landlords. Direct offers were made to those tenants without an identified relocation property at the end of April 2007, based on an understanding of the individuals' preferences for their relocation.

The LDA completed the relocation of residents from Clays Lane Estate on the 23 July 2007.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182509]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The number of press officers is published in the Office's annual reports.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182725]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Staff in the Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive (SE) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) who each have bonus schemes, part of which relate to annual performance appraisal. The Scotland Office does not hold information on bonus payments under these annual performance appraisal systems. Under the Special Bonus Scheme of the SE and the Reward and Recognition Scheme of the MOJ, the Office may also directly authorise bonus payments for special effort, achievement and commitment; since 1999, the Office has made one bonus payment of £150 to a press officer.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183349]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and maintains the policy that road traffic violations, such as parking tickets and speeding fines, remain the responsibility of the individual and are not reimbursed from public funds.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of running the Scottish Parliamentary Elections of *(a)* 1999, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2007. [183425]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and was not therefore responsible for the initial funding of the Scottish Parliament election in May 1999. Since July 1999, the Office has, however, paid £5.562 million in respect of the 1999 election. Earlier costs were incurred by the Scottish Office and figures are not available.

The Office has paid £12.071 million for the 2003 election; it is estimated that the cost of the 2007 election will be £19 million. The final cost of the 2007 election will not be known until all the accounts are submitted by returning officers; they have 12 months in which to submit accounts.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what fees were paid to DRS Data and Research Services plc to administer the 2007 Scottish Parliamentary Election. [183426]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has made no payments directly to DRS. The responsibility for making such payments lies with returning officers who have 12 months in which to submit accounts to the Secretary of State.

WALES

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department met the target in the sustainable operations on the Government Estate programme to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [182912]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department was successful in reversing the upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007.

The Wales Office was successful in reducing both energy and water consumption, and 100 percent of electricity supplied is now from renewable sources.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183004]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In 2006-07 my Department spent £17,240 on advertising for a new Head of Communication, just under 0.3 per cent. of total Wales Office expenditure that year. The Wales Office has incurred no other expenditure on advertising in the period of nearly nine years since it was created.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183299]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None. My Department leases ministerial cars from the Government Car Dispatch Agency.

Environment Protection

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate or *(b)* in some of its buildings. [182911]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department occupies Gwydyr House in London and leases office space in a modern building in Cardiff.

The Wales Office is currently establishing a sustainable development strategy that will bring us closer to achieving accreditation for ISO14001.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183347]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent tour intervals were of each regiment in the *(a)* Household Cavalry, *(b)* Royal Armoured Corps and *(c)* the Royal Logistic Corps. [182330]

Derek Twigg: The most recent tour intervals for the Household Cavalry and the Royal Armoured Corps are set out in the following table.

Royal armoured corps unit tour intervals

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
Household Cavalry Regiment[1]	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2004	35
Queens Dragoon Guards	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2005	12
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	June 2003	28
Royal Dragoon Guards	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
Queens Royal Hussars	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2004	24
9th/12th Royal Lancers	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	April 2004	18
Kings Royal Hussars	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
Light Division[1]	Afghanistan	April 2007	Iraq	October 2005	17
Queens Royal Lancers	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2004	24
2nd Royal Tank Regiment[2]	Iraq	March 2003	n/a		

[1] Subunits from Household Cavalry Regiments and Light Division have deployed in support of operations. The deployments listed are the unit deployments, defined as a regiment deploying with a regimental headquarters and more than two manoeuvre subunits for four months or more. Only the unit deployments will be included in the calculation.

[2] 2 RTR last deployed as a unit on OP TELIC 1 (March 2003 – June 2003). MOD records date from January 2003 and therefore we have no record of any unit deployments prior to Op TELIC 1.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to The Royal Logistic Corps. This is largely due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these Corps (which means that the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel who deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for this Corps is unrepresentative and therefore not routinely collated.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to receive the 2008 report on armed forces pay from the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body; and when he expects to publish the report. [183067]

Des Browne *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: The Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) is an independent body and the precise timing of the submission of their 2008 report is a matter for it to decide. The Government will announce their response and publish the report once they have considered the AFPRB's recommendations.

Departmental Personal Records

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225, on MOD (data loss), when and by what means his Department informed *(a)* the Prime Minister, *(b)* other Departments, *(c)* West Midlands police, *(d)* Ministry of Defence police and *(e)* the devolved Administrations of the theft of the computer on 9 January. [182397]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: I have nothing further to add to the statement I made to the House on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W, on Iraq: detainees, what the Government's policy is on recording *(a)* requests for the transfer of individuals to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and *(b)* the transfer of individuals to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay for which the UK Government's consent was not requested. [181542]

Des Browne: Any request made by the US authorities for approval to transfer to Guantanamo Bay an individual previously detained by UK forces but passed into their jurisdiction would be recorded. As I made clear in my answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 885W, we have no record of any such requests having been made and no record of any such individual being transferred without our consent.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate the circumstances in which the 1972 direction on the use of hooding, referred to in paragraph 19 of the Aitken report on Cases of Deliberate Abuse and Unlawful Killing in Iraq in 2003 and 2004, came to be lost in 2003. [178773]

Des Browne: The question of how the direction following the publication of the "Directive on Interrogation by the Armed Forces in Internal Security Operations" in 1972 came to be lost is likely to be addressed in any future inquiry into the death of Mr. Baha Mousa. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future maintenance of the UK armed forces helicopter fleet. [179315]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our current helicopter operations at home and abroad are of critical importance to our armed forces and are being admirably supported by both MOD and industry. This support is being achieved increasingly though long-term partnering arrangements; the benefits of which are evident on our Merlin, Sea King and Chinook aircraft. This strategy for the maintenance of our fleet includes the consideration of the future ownership of DARA's Rotary Wing Components business, on which no decision has yet been reached. As our partnering arrangements with industry have proved, any potential sale of the businesses will neither compromise security of supply nor maintenance of future capability and availability of aircraft for front line duties.

Nuclear Weapons: Operating Costs

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current annual operating cost is of the UK's nuclear warhead programme. [182399]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were between 11 December 2007 and 13 January 2008. [179687]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 11 December 2007 to 13 January 2008, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On 11 December and 12 December, I had meetings with several families of troops who died on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. On 12 December I attended the Scotch Whisky Association Reception in Dover House. On 14 and 15 December, I hosted a meeting in Edinburgh for the Defence and Foreign Ministers of nations contributing troops to NATO-led operations in southern Afghanistan. On, 17 December I discussed the outcome of the Edinburgh meeting with the NATO Secretary General and also met Ross Kemp to discuss his recent visit to Afghanistan. On 18 December I met representatives from Serco Defence, Science and Technology. On 19 December I held a video conference with representatives of the independent panel set up by the Canadian government to review their future role in Afghanistan (the Manley Panel). On 20 December, I took the salute at a passing out parade at the Army Training Regiment in Bassingbourn. On 3 and 4 January 2008, I visited Brussels for meetings with the UK ambassador to NATO and the UK delegation to the EU. On 5 January, I visited HQ Northern Ireland and was briefed by the General Officer Commanding. On 8 January, I had meetings with the Belgian ambassador and with Lieutenant General Mohan al-Firaji, Commander of Iraqi security operations in Basra, following which I gave evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee on its inquiry into the future of NATO and European defence. On 10 January, I attended the House for a Defence debate on armed forces personnel. On 11 January, I hosted the pre-Budget report seminar in Edinburgh and visited the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. On 12 January, I attended a meeting of the Executive of the Scottish Labour Party in Stirling.

Olympic Games 2012: Aldershot

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will pay for the *(a)* guarding, *(b)* security and *(c)* administration of the British Olympic team at Aldershot barracks; and what the estimated cost is. [183162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of the British Olympic Association's (BOA's) use of facilities at Aldershot Garrison will be met entirely by the BOA. No estimate is available at this stage; however, no costs will fall to the defence budget.

Trident: Operating Costs

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current annual operating cost is of the Trident submarine fleet and missiles. [182398]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the current Trident nuclear deterrent, excluding costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be around £720 million in 2007-08.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he will list the warship launchings or other naming ceremonies which have taken place since May 1997; and which Ministers represented the Government on each occasion; [176653]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions since May 1997 no Minister has been present to represent the Government at warship launchings or other naming ceremonies. [176654]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 January 2008]*: Records show that the following ship launches or naming ceremonies took place since 1997. Ministers attended these, as shown. However, information on ministerial attendance prior to 2000 is not currently available.

Date	*Ship*	*Minister attending*
11 March 1997	Penzance	—
15 December 1997	Pembroke	—
20 February 1998	Ocean	—
27 May 1998	Kent	—
10 August 1998	Grimsby	—
19 September 1998	Vengeance	—
16 April 1999	Bangor	—
15 May 1999	Portland	—
25 November 1999	Ramsey	—
6 May 2000	St Albans	—
4 July 2000	Blyth	—
28 September 2000	Wave knight	—
9 February 2001	Wave ruler	—
9 March 2001	Albion	—
9 April 2001	Shoreham	—
15 November 2001	Bulwark	—
4 March 2002	Echo	—

Date	*Ship*	*Minister attending*
2 May 2002	Enterprise	—
3 September 2002	Tyne	—
4 December 2002	Severn	—
14 June 2003	Mersey	—
1 August 2003	Largs bay	—
9 April 2004	Mounts bay	Minister for the Armed Forces
8 April 2005	Cardigan bay	Minister for the Armed Forces
14 October 2005	Lyme Bay	—
1 February 2006	Daring	Secretary of State
7 September 2006	Clyde	—
23 January 2007	Dauntless	Minister for the Armed Forces Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
8 June 2007	Astute	Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
27 November 2007	Diamond	—

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC's Delivering Creative Future Programme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of whether the BBC's Delivering Creative Future programme will enable the BBC to meet its public service obligations. [183014]

Andy Burnham: I have made no assessment. This is a matter for the BBC.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of households in each regional television area have digital television receiving equipment. [182868]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* The table shows the percentage of homes with digital by ITV region, taken from the Ofcom and Digital UK Switchover Tracker Survey, quarter three, 2007.

ITV region	*Percentage*
STV North	72
STV Central	88
Border	82
Wales	86
Ulster	[1]80
London	82
Meridian	[1]79
West country	82
West	85
Central	[1]77
Anglia	[1]75
Yorkshire	[1]78
Tyne Tees	[1]90
Granada	81

[1] Small base size—data should be viewed as indicative only.

ITV: Wales

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with ITV on its provision of news and current affairs programmes for Wales. [180657]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to retaining a strong regional dimension to public service broadcasting. That is why the Communications Act 2003 provides safeguards for quality regional programming-making and regional programming and requires Ofcom to set appropriate targets for the provision of news and current affairs programmes.

I have no plans to hold any discussions with ITV on this specific issue as the responsibility for regulating ITV's public service obligations falls to Ofcom. However, I expect these issues to form an important aspect of Ofcom's current PSB review.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much held by each of the national lottery distribution bodies has not been drawn down as at the most recent date for which figures are available. [180636]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the balance held in the national lottery distribution fund on each lottery distributor's behalf at 31 December 2007.

Lottery distributor	*£ million*[1]
Arts Council England	152.482
UK Film Council	36.847
Arts Council Northern Ireland	18.646
Scottish Arts Council	26.852
Arts Council Wales	11.508
National Heritage Memorial Fund	566.998
Sport England	210.114
Sport Northern Ireland	20.725
Scottish Sports Council	50.088
UK Sports Council	15.871
Sports Council Wales	10.[illegible]51
Scottish Screen	5.776
Big Lottery Fund	532.057

[1] To three decimal places

In addition £85.533 million was held in the Olympic lottery distribution fund on behalf of the Olympic lottery distributor.

National Lottery: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding will be allocated to *(a)* the 2012 London Olympics and *(b)* the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games over the next five years. [179[illegible]9]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The national lottery will contribute £2.175 billion in total to the funding package for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. Of this: £750 million will be raised from dedicated Olympic lottery products, of which well over £200 million has already been raised; £340 million will be contributed by the five sports lottery distributors, and the remaining £1,085 million will be transferred from non-Olympic lottery proceeds between 2009 and 2012.

I understand that Glasgow's Candidate City File for the 2014 Games set out the various revenue streams that were expected and that this did not include any revenue from the lottery.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements there are to refund the TV licence fee when people lose their television signals for more than a year. [182125]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Section 365(3) of the Communications Act 2003 gives the BBC a discretionary power to refund payments made in respect of a television licence. I understand the BBC has a policy of allowing refunds under certain circumstances. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to write direct to the hon. Member with further information.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of public awareness and recognition of (a) the television licence fee and (b) the services paid for by the licence fee. [182802]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* These matters were addressed fully in the BBC Charter review, which was completed in 2006. The results can be found on the Charter review website at:

http://www.bbccharterreview.org.uk.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will change the name of the television licensing fee to the BBC licensing fee. [182952]

Andy Burnham: I have no plans to do so.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Autism

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure the continuity of local education authority services provided to children with autism and Asperger's syndrome as they make the transition to adulthood. [183401]

Kevin Brennan: The "Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice" (2001) sets out a statutory transition planning process, beginning in year 9, for all young people with SEN statements, including those with autism and Asperger's syndrome. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH) have recently published "a transition guide for all services: key information for professionals about the transition process for disabled young people" (2007) to help local authorities and others improve the effectiveness of transition planning.

"Aiming High for Disabled Children" (HM Treasury/DCSF, 2007) announced a £19 million Transition Support Programme over 2008-09 to 2010-11 partly to encourage "joint team working across agencies and with adult services to encourage a holistic approach, and choice and control for young people". This programme will consider the particular issue of continuity of services as disabled children pass into adulthood.

For young people with autism and Asperger's syndrome in particular, DCSF and DH published "Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Good Practice Guidance" (2002). This includes pointers to good practice for schools, local authorities, Connexions and the Learning and Skills Council on transitions for these young people.

Learning Disability: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were on the roll in each moderate learning difficulty school in Essex in each of the last five years. [178836]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The number of children on roll at each moderate learning difficulty school in Essex for the last five years is given in the following table.

Moderate learning difficulty schools: Headcount of pupils[1]—position in January each year, 2003-07, Essex local authority

School name	Open/closed indicator	Closure date	Type of establishment	Headcount of pupils 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Moat House School	Closed	31 August 2003	Community Special	58	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kingswode Hoe School	Open		Community Special	99	87	87	100	114
The Mead School	Closed	31 March 1999	Community Special	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cedar Hall School	Open	—	Community Special	122	124	117	116	113
Thriftwood School	Open	—	Community Special	118	112	117	120	121
Peter Kirk School	Closed	31 December 1998	Community Special	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Woodcraft School	Open	—	Independent School Approved for SEN Pupils	23	31	29	32	32
The Endeavour School	Open	—	Foundation Special	74	71	74	79	77
St. John's RC School (Essex)	Open	—	Non-Maintained Special	107	103	105	103	102
The Chelmsford New Model Special School, Haywood Campus	Open	—	Community Special	100	97	102	91	133

Moderate learning difficulty schools: Headcount of pupils[1]—position in January each year, 2003-07, Essex local authority

				Headcount of pupils				
School name	*Open/closed indicator*	*Closure date*	*Type of establishment*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
The Chelmsford New Model Special School, Woodlands Campus	Open	—	Community Special	98	87	96	121	105
Market Field School	Open	—	Community Special	122	126	115	134	146
Castledon School	Open	—	Community Special	97	92	84	88	94
The Leas School	Closed	31 August 2005	Community Special	97	89	76	n/a	n/a
The Edith Borthwick School	Open	—	Community Special	156	149	158	162	160

n/a = Not available (school closed)

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

Parenting Orders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting orders have been issued in each region in each year since 2004. [183574]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is detailed in the Annex.

The Department has since September 2004 collected data on the number of applications made by local authorities to the courts for education-related parenting orders in cases of irregular school attendance and exclusions.

By local authority area, by government office region in England

		School academic year			
		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Number of education-related parenting orders made between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2007*
	England				1,446
	North East	12	35	44	91
841	Darlington	1	2	2	5
840	Durham	0	3	1	4
390	Gateshead	0	0	4	4
805	Hartlepool	0	0	2	2
806	Middlesbrough	0	4	7	11
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0
392	North Tyneside	0	0	0	0
929	Northumberland	0	0	0	0
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1	6	13	20
393	South Tyneside	6	4	3	13
808	Stockton-on-Tees	0	1	0	1
394	Sunderland	4	15	12	31
	North West	103	110	112	325
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	6	0	6
890	Blackpool	10	10	8	28
350	Bolton	1	0	0	1
351	Bury	0	1	3	4
875	Cheshire	2	0	0	2
909	Cumbria	7	3	8	18
876	Hatton	0	2	4	6
340	Knowsley	1	0	5	6
888	Lancashire	15	12	15	42
341	Liverpool	7	5	23	35
352	Manchester	3	4	1	8
353	Oldham	0	0	0	0
354	Rochdale	1	4	4	9
355	Salford	14	16	28	58
343	Sefton	0	0	0	0
342	St. Helens	0	0	1	1
356	Stockport	5	4	0	9
357	Tameside	7	6	1	14
358	Trafford	6	4	8	18
877	Warrington	0	2	0	2
359	Wigan	17	29	3	49
344	Wirral	7	2	0	9
	Yorkshire and The Humber	56	57	56	169
370	Barnsley	15	9	11	35
380	Bradford	6	5	9	20
381	Calderdale	3	10	2	15
371	Doncaster	3	13	11	27
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	6	5	3	14
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	4	2	0	6
382	Kirklees	2	0	1	3
383	Leeds	15	10	14	39
812	North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
813	North Lincolnshire	0	2	2	4
815	North Yorkshire	0	1	0	1
372	Rotherham	0	0	0	0
373	Sheffield	2	0	2	4
384	Wakefield	0	0	1	1
816	York	0	0	0	0
	East Midlands	32	43	18	93
831	Derby	0	0	3	3
830	Derbyshire	6	7	2	15
856	Leicester	19	31	12	62
855	Leicestershire	3	4	1	8
925	Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0

By local authority area, by government office region in England

		School academic year			
		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Number of education-related parenting orders made between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2007*
928	Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0
892	Nottingham	4	0	0	4
891	Nottinghamshire	0	1	0	1
857	Rutland	0	0	0	0
	West Midlands	12	10	12	34
330	Birmingham	2	0	1	3
331	Coventry	0	0	0	0
332	Dudley	0	0	1	1
884	Herefordshire	0	0	0	0
333	Sandwell	0	0	0	0
893	Shropshire	1	1	1	3
334	Solihull	0	0	1	1
860	Staffordshire	0	2	0	2
861	Stoke-on-Trent	4	5	0	9
894	Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0	0
335	Walsall	0	2	6	8
937	Warwickshire	0	0	1	1
336	Wolverhampton	0	0	0	0
885	Worcestershire	5	0	1	6
	East of England	26	26	20	72
820	Bedfordshire	5	7	7	19
873	Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2
881	Essex	14	13	5	32
919	Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1
821	Luton	0	1	1	2
926	Norfolk	0	5	5	10
874	Peterborough	0	0	0	0
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0
935	Suffolk	5	0	1	6
883	Thurrock	0	0	0	0
	London				
	Inner London	29	35	37	101
202	Camden	0	1	0	1
201	City of London	0	0	0	0
204	Hackney	1	5	6	12
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6	8	8	22
309	Haringey	0	1	2	3
206	Islington	0	1	1	2
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6	3	0	9
208	Lambeth	0	0	0	0
209	Lewisham	14	15	9	38
316	Newham	0	0	0	0
210	Southwark	1	1	2	4
211	Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0
212	Wandsworth	0	0	6	6
213	Westminster	1	0	3	4
	Outer London	43	81	69	193
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0	3	3
302	Barnet	0	0	1	1
303	Bexley	4	5	9	18
304	Brent	4	15	7	26
305	Bromley	9	1	3	13
306	Croydon	2	0	4	6
307	Ealing	1	1	1	3
308	Enfield	1	4	7	12
203	Greenwich	9	28	13	50
310	Harrow	0	0	0	0
311	Havering	0	0	0	0
312	Hillingdon	1	4	1	6
313	Hounslow	0	0	0	0
314	Kingston upon Thames	6	3	5	14
315	Merton	0	2	2	4
317	Redbridge	0	0	2	2
318	Richmond upon Thames	3	3	3	9
319	Sutton	3	14	8	25
320	Waltham Forest	0	1	0	1
	South East	64	73	91	228
867	Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0
846	Brighton and Hove	4	2	2	8
825	Buckinghamshire	7	1	0	8
845	East Sussex	1	0	0	1
850	Hampshire	19	23	20	62
921	Isle of Wight	2	1	2	5
886	Kent	12	25	40	77
887	Medway	0	1	0	1
826	Milton Keynes	0	2	0	2
931	Oxfordshire	2	3	2	7
851	Portsmouth	5	7	7	19
870	Reading	0	0	3	3
871	Slough	0	0	0	0
852	Southampton	12	7	13	32
936	Surrey	0	0	1	1
869	West Berkshire	0	1	1	2
938	West Sussex	0	0	0	0
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0
872	Wokingham	0	0	0	0
	South West	48	41	51	140
800	Bath and North East Somerset	5	0	3	8
837	Bournemouth	7	3	3	13
801	Bristol, City of	8	9	3	20
908	Cornwall	0	6	0	6
878	Devon	6	3	4	13
835	Dorset	0	2	10	12
916	Gloucestershire	1	0	0	1

By local authority area, by government office region in England

		School academic year			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Number of education-related parenting orders made between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2007
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0
802	North Somerset	7	1	3	11
879	Plymouth	0	0	0	0
836	Poole	1	1	6	8
933	Somerset	0	2	0	2
803	South Gloucestershire	2	9	5	16
866	Swindon	5	3	3	11
880	Torbay	3	0	2	5
865	Wiltshire	3	2	9	14

Special Educational Needs: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with statements of special needs attended mainstream secondary schools in Essex in each of the last five years. [178818]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is given in the following table:

Number of children with statements of special needs attending mainstream secondary school—Essex local authority: 2003-07, January each year

	Number[1]
2003	1,370
2004	1,380
2005	1,440
2006	1,470
2007	1,510

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 10.

Note:

Includes middle schools as deemed.

Source:

School Census 2003-07

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Essex received statements of special needs in each of the last five years. [178819]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is given in the following table:

Number of children receiving statements of special needs—Essex local authority, 2002-06

	Number
2002	609
2003	567
2004	630
2005	685
2006	783

Source:

SEN 2 Survey 2002-06

TRANSPORT

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182448]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my replies given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 419-20W and 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 837W. It is not possible to provide information before 2002 when the Department for Transport was established.

Cycling: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycling track have been developed in each of the last five years in *(a)* Norfolk and *(b)* Norwich. [182100]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Norfolk county council provided the following information on cycle tracks for Norfolk for the last five years. We do not hold any data on Norwich.

	Cycle tracks (kilometres)
2002-03	3
2003-04	7
2004-05	3
2005-06	6
2006-07 (estimated)	3

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what minimum demonstrable security standards are required by her Department of an outside organisation before it is allowed to handle personal information. [176938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department and its agencies are required to follow the principles of the Department's procurement manual. The general terms and conditions, as set out in the procurement manual, for the procurement of services from outside organisations, require the contractors to comply with the Data Protection Act. In the case of contracts where the processing of personal data is a key part of the service to be provided (i.e. where the contractor will act as our 'data processor') tenderers are required to provide specific guarantees about the technical and organisational security measures they have in place to ensure compliance with the seventh principle of the Data Protection Act, which if they are successful should form part of the contract. The general terms and conditions also set out a general duty of care for contractors.

The Department and its agencies set additional security standards on a case by case basis during the procurement process depending on the nature of the service to be provided.

Departmental E-mails

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails printed by officials in her Department. [179464]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is in the process of updating its guidance to staff on the printing of e-mails along the lines of "Think before you print" and double side if you need to print. Additionally, e-mails issued through the departmental system will carry a footer note reminding the recipient to think whether they need to print. The Department has also recently commissioned a study to explore the potential rationalisation of printers, which will contribute towards the attainment of sustainability targets.

The Department for Transport's agencies already have in place "print only essential e-mails" guidance for their staff and when printing is necessary to ensure it is double sided wherever possible. They also promote the use of the "print preview" option to reduce the number of printed e-mails.

There is a continuous improvement target of reducing paper usage incorporated into environmental management systems where they exist across the Department.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what weight of paper her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179453]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Paper recycling is not a specific target under Sustainable Operation on the Government Estate (SOGE); therefore not all areas of the Department for Transport have this detail recorded. However, for those sites that have recorded data, which happen to be the main sites within the department, the figures for the last five years are as follows:

	Quantity (tonnes)
2002-03	1,175
2003-04	1,225
2004-05	1,677
2005-06	1,376
2006-07	1,342

Emergency Services: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents have occurred involving blue light vehicles from the *(a)* police force, *(b)* fire service and *(c)* ambulance service in each of the last five years; and how many (i) deaths and (ii) serious injuries resulted from accidents in each such category. [183666]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving vehicles from *(a)* the police force, *(b)* the fire service and *(c)* the ambulance service and the number of resulting fatalities and seriously injured casualties in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables:

(a) Number of accidents/casualties—police force

	Accidents	*Fatalities*	*Seriously injured casualties*
2002	2,184	34	333
2003	2,025	27	245
2004	2,026	31	293
2005	1,817	26	222
2006	1,827	30	244

(b) Number of accidents/casualties—fire service

	Accidents	*Fatalities*	*Seriously injured casualties*
2002	110	0	9
2003	125	4	24
2004	118	4	18
2005	91	2	13
2006	91	0	18

(c) Number of accidents/casualties—ambulance service

	Accidents	*Fatalities*	*Seriously injured casualties*
2002	308	5	52
2003	353	11	54
2004	292	4	43
2005	284	5	32
2006	274	5	43

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which her Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183063]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is providing the following revenue grants to Kent county council in 2007-08:

Grant	*Amount (£)*
Urban bus challenge	35,893
Kickstart	138,729
Rural bus subsidy	2,276,481
Road safety grant	2,540,374
Detrunked roads	259,163
Total	5,250,640

In addition it has contributed half of the revenue funding for school travel advisers totalling £189,000 and paid to Kent by Department for Communities and Local Government in area-based grant. It also contributed £95,500 for walking to school initiatives to the Department for Children, Schools and Families schools standards fund, which DCSF paid to Kent county council for onward transmission to schools, it also funds Sustrans to manage the 2007-08 Links to Schools programme and Kent county council has been allocated £40,000 for 2007-08.

Most revenue funding support for day to day transport services (such as highways maintenance, supporting bus services and concessionary fares) is included in the revenue support grant for Kent county, Thanet district and Dover district councils, administered by CLG.

The Department has made the following capital allocations funded by supported borrowing and direct capital grants available to Kent county council in 2007-08:

		£000
	Direct capital grant	*Supported borrowing*
Integrated Transport	4,100	7,593
Highways Capital Maintenance	9,514	15,530
East Kent Access Phase One	500	0
Road Safety Grant	565.218	0
Total	14,679.218	23,123

The Department has not allocated funding to Thanet or Dover district councils in 2007-08.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 4 December 2007 on heavy lorries on country lanes (reference: RW/JF/027469/07). [183431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member today.

Merseytravel: Per Capita Costs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding per head of population was allocated to Merseytravel in each year since 1993, expressed in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [181281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have specifically allocated funding for rail franchise payments, local transport capital funding and some other transport revenue grants to Merseytravel (as shown in tables 1 to 3 respectively, with totals in table 4). Rail figures prior to franchising (i.e. prior to 1997-98) are not readily available.

All four tables show the cash allocated, the cash per head of population (based on the Office for National Statistics' population figure of 1,367,000 for 2005) and the funding per head of population expressed in terms of 1987 prices (using the retail price index).

Most revenue support for Merseytravel for public transport (other than rail franchise payments) is included in the revenue support grant allocated to the district councils, on which Merseytravel levies. This is not included in the figures because the Government does not specify how much of the revenue support for the district councils should be for Merseytravel.

Table 1: Rail franchise payments

		(£ per head)	
	Cash (£000)	*Cash*	*Funding 1987 prices*
1997-98	72,025	52.69	33.45
1998-99	65,702	48.06	29.50
1999-2000	60,389	44.18	26.71
2000-01	58,331	42.67	25.06
2001-02	88,161	64.49	37.21
2002-03	90,845	66.46	37.72
2003-04	91,731	67.1	37.01
2004-05	83,111	60.8	32.56
2005-06	72,561	53.08	27.65
2006-07	86,915	63.58	32.10
2007-08	90,337	66.08	31.99

Table 2: Local transport capital allocations to Merseytravel

		(£ per head)	
	Cash (£000)	*Cash*	*Funding 1987 prices*
1993-94	14,908	10.91	7.75
1994-95	6,812	4.98	3.46
1995-96	8,626	6.31	4.23
1996-97	5,679	4.15	2.12
1997-98	9,466	6.92	4.40
1998-99	7,190	5.26	3.23
1999-2000	8,423	6.16	3.73
2000-01	8,286	6.06	3.56
2001-02	15,800	11.56	6.67
2002-03	18,343	13.42	7.62
2003-04	21,797	15.95	8.79
2004-05	30,574	22.37	11.98
2005-06	19,679	14.40	7.50
2006-07	17,012	12.44	6.28
2007-08	18,903	13.83	6.69

Table 3: Specific revenue grants for buses and cycling

		(£ per head)	
	Cash (£000)	*Cash*	*Funding 1987 prices*
1993 to 1997-98	0	0.00	0.00
1998-99	83	0.06	0.04
1999-2000	83	0.06	0.04
2000-01	83	0.06	0.04
2001-02	320	0.23	0.14
2002-03	1,021	0.75	0.42
2003-04	1,259	0.92	0.51
2004-05	1,117	0.82	0.44
2005-06	415	0.30	0.16
2006-07	327	0.24	0.12
2007-08	685	0.50	0.24

Table 4: Total funding allocations to Merseytravel

		(£ per head)	
	Cash (£000)	*Cash*	*Funding 1987 prices*
1997-98	81,491	59.61	37.85
1998-99	72,975	53.38	32.77
1999-2000	68,895	50.40	30.47
2000-01	66,700	48.79	28.65
2001-02	104,281	76.28	44.0[illegible]
2002-03	110,209	80.62	45.7[illegible]
2003-04	114,787	83.97	46.32
2004-05	114,802	83.98	44.98
2005-06	92,655	67.78	35.30
2006-07	104,254	76.26	38.50
2007-08	109,925	80.41	38.92

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars were impounded and destroyed for failure to pay vehicle excise duty in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [183504]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Unlicensed vehicles on a public road are clamped. If a release fee and either a tax disc or surety payment is not made within 24 hours, the vehicles are impounded. If fees are not paid, the vehicle will be disposed of either by it being scrapped, recycled to the emergency services or, in a few cases, sold. Information we hold on the number of vehicles subject to these enforcement steps is:

	Vehicles clamped	*Of these vehicles impounded*	*Vehicles disposed of by scrapping or sale*
England			
2002	32,270	21,391	16,583
2003	57,794	37,015	27,354
2004	61,732	44,449	30,994
2005	77,355	57,578	36,004
2006	78,272	56,986	33,763
2007	108,385	65,010	39,872
Total	415,808	282,429	184,570
Scotland			
2002	3,062	2,494	2,011
2003	5,199	3,347	2,876
2004	4,028	2,611	2,277
2005	4,030	2,385	2,068
2006	4,393	2,761	2,197
2007	8,209	3,986	3,005
Total	28,921	17,584	14,434
Wales			
2002	1,274	763	689
2003	2,290	1,225	1,090
2004	2,265	1,299	1,080
2005	2,613	1,855	1,303
2006	4,144	2,315	1,500
2007	7,048	3,589	2,368
Total	19,634	11,046	8,030
Northern Ireland			
2002	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2003	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2004	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2005	1,329	[1]—	283
2006	3,132	911	849
2007	5,039	1,213	557
Total	9,500	2,124	1,689
Total			
2002	36,606	24,648	19,283
2003	65,283	41,587	31,320
2004	68,025	48,359	34,351
2005	85,327	61,818	39,658
2006	89,941	62,973	38,309
2007	128,681	73,798	45,802
Total	473,863	313,183	208,723

[1] No figures available.

Rail Passengers Council Report

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response she has made to the recommendations of the Rail Passengers Council Report, March 2005, on the deployment of class 450 rolling stock on the Portsmouth mainline. [178974]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has examined the report, which records a range of views about the class 450s. The report does not, however, make specific recommendations and the Department has made no formal response to it.

Railways: Concessions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will extend and fund national concessionary travel schemes to *(a)* rail services and *(b)* London underground. [182392]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: From April this year, for the first time, those aged 60 and over, and the eligible disabled, will be able to travel anywhere in England on off-peak local buses. This new concession is being funded at a cost of an additional £212 million—bringing our total commitment to concessionary travel to around £1 billion per year. Our current focus is very much on the successful implementation of this new all-England concession from April.

Local authorities retain the ability to offer discretionary concessions, including rail or underground travel, over and above the statutory minimum, if they wish to do so from their own resources.

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road-widening schemes have been approved by the Highways Agency in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each completed scheme was. [183663]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many major new road schemes have been approved by the Highways Agency in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each completed scheme was. [183664]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the demand for additional carriages to be added to Virgin Pendolino trains on the West Coast mainline route; and if she will make a statement. [183667]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has assessed demand on the West Coast Main Line and continues to take action to ensure provision of extra capacity, as envisaged in the 2007 high level output specification (HLOS) statement. An additional 30 per cent. capacity will be realised from the existing fleet of 'Pendolino' trains from December 2008, when a more intensive service will be introduced.

The Department is currently refining requirements for the lengthening of a number of the 'Pendolino' trains by two carriages, for introduction early in the life of the next franchise for West Coast Trains (2012 onwards), subject to value-for-money considerations.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of speed cameras is expected to be *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each police force area in 2007-08. [183495]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Since 1 April 2007 local road safety partnerships have been responsible for the deployment and operation of safety cameras. Cameras are now funded in the same way as other road safety measures through the local transport plan process, which includes a specific road safety grant. Partnerships are free to spend the grant according to local priorities.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology she uses to estimate the number of lives saved by the siting of speed cameras. [183496]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The annual independent evaluations of the national safety camera programme assessed the effectiveness of cameras using a statistical model which took account of many different parameters including the effects of long-term trends and seasonal variations. Details of the modelling approach are included in the appendices to these reports.

The four-year evaluation, published on 15 December 2005, found a 42 per cent. reduction in people killed or seriously injured at camera sites, that means around 1,745 fewer people killed or seriously injured per annum, including over 100 fewer deaths.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Public Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 570-1W, on departmental public expenditure, what percentage of annual managed expenditure savings made by his Department HM Treasury has agreed to add to his Department's expenditure limit. [181771]

Mrs. McGuire: Work to refine a methodology for calculating savings resulting from the Pathways to Work programme is on-going. The value of annual managed expenditure savings captured will be assessed periodically as positive outcomes from Pathways to Work are demonstrated. Any additional DEL funding provided to DWP will be allocated through normal processes.

Health and Safety Executive: Complaints

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incidents and *(b)* complaints were (i) reported and (ii) investigated by the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last four years, broken down by region. [181128]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: National level statistics were provided in my response to the hon. Member's question PQ/07/173797 of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 720W. Unfortunately, due to incompatibilities between HSE's current computer system and an earlier system, significant and disproportionate costs would be involved in extracting an historical regional breakdown, and manually validating the results.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those people claiming incapacity benefit at the most recent date are expected to *(a)* die and *(b)* reach state retirement age in each of the next 10 years. [181641]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were claiming incapacity benefit in Leicestershire on the most recent date for which figures are available. [181818]

Mrs. McGuire: At May 2007, there were 16,130 working age claimants of incapacity benefits in Leicestershire.

Incapacity Benefit: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were incapacity benefit claimants in Newcastle upon Tyne in each year since 1997. [181061]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance cases by gender in Newcastle upon Tyne local authority

	Working age females	*Working age males*
May 1997	6,500	11,500
May 1998	6,800	11,400
May 1999	7,300	12,100
May 2000	7,060	12,020

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance cases by gender in Newcastle upon Tyne local authority

	Working age females	*Working age males*
May 2001	7,380	12,360
May 2002	7,530	12,410
May 2003	7,490	11,880
May 2004	7,240	11,460
May 2005	7,040	11,040
May 2006	6,830	10,510
May 2007	6,540	10,080

[1] 1997, 1998 and 1999 figures are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest 100. [2] Figures for 2000 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10. [3] Totals may not sum due to rounding. [4] 1997, 1998 and 1999 figures are based on a five per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. *Source:* DWP Information Directorate five per cent. sample and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Incapacity Benefits: Industrial Diseases

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will accept and implement the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council recommendations that those who have worked at screens on the surface of coal mines for 40 years or more be covered by Prescribed Disease PD D12; and if he will publicise that decision to all interested parties. [178609]

Mrs. McGuire: The impact of implementing the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council's recommendations regarding screen workers at the surface of coal mines is currently being assessed.

A decision will be made in light of that assessment.

Job Creation: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new jobs were created in Bexley in each of the last four years. [182093]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the reasonability of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of new jobs created in Bexley in each of the last four years. (182093).

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, figures from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in Bexley.

Figures for 2004 are for the twelve months ending February that year. Figures for 2005-2007 are for the twelve months ending March the same year.

As with any survey, results from the APS at a small geographical area are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Net change in employment levels, for people aged 16 and over, by area of residence

Thousand

	Bexley	
	Level	*Net change*
2004	107	—
2005	109	1
2006	108	-1
2007	107	-1

Notes:

1. Figures for 2004 are for the 12 months ending February.
2. Figures for 2005-2007 are for the 12 months ending March.
3. Figures at this detailed level are produced from the LFS microdata which are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in spring 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS employment series.
4. As with any survey, results from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty

Source:

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey

Job Creation: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new jobs were created in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last four years. [181667]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested fails within the reasonability of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of new jobs created in each of the last four years in Romford, Essex and Greater London. (181667).

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in employment from year to year.

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in London, Essex and Havering. Figures are not available for Romford from the APS.

Figures for 2004 are for the twelve months ending February. Figures for 2005-2007 are for the twelve months ending March.

As with any survey, results from the APS at a small geographical area are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Net change in employment levels, for people aged 16 and over, by area of residence

Thousands

	London		*Essex*		*Havering*	
	Level	*Net change*	*Level*	*Net change*	*Level*	*Net change*
2004	3,397	—	649	—	112	—
2005	3,424	27	654	5	109	-3
2006	3,441	17	654	0	108	-1
2007	3,512	71	651	-3	108	0

1. Figures for 2004 are for the 12 months ending February.
2. Figures for 2005-07 are for the 12 months ending March.
3. London figures are provided by Government office region. Essex and Havering figures are by unitary authority.
4. Figures at this detailed level are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) microdata which are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in spring 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS employment series.
5. As with any survey, results from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:
Annual Population Survey

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many temporary national insurance numbers have been issued to non-EU nationals in each year since 1997; and if he will give a breakdown by nationality of the number issued in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [181144]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not issue temporary national insurance numbers. Employers sometimes create temporary reference numbers for the purpose of their payroll records, where an employee has not provided a national insurance number. Such numbers are not recognised or used by either DWP or HMRC systems.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were on a New Deal programme on the most recent date for which figures are available. [181652]

Mrs. McGuire: In May 2007[1], there were 464,350 people participating on a new deal programme.

[1] Latest available data.

Pensioners

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of pensioners in each London borough was in each quarter of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [178419]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information for London cannot be provided at a lower level than Government office region, averaged over three years. Information that is available is set out in the following table.

Average net weekly income before housing costs for all pensioner units, in real terms

	£ per week (2005-06 prices)	
	London	Great Britain
1994-95 to 1996-97	227	219
1995-96 to 1997-98	225	224
1996-97 to 1998-99	242	231
1997-98 to 1999-2000	256	237
1998-99 to 2000-01	276	245
1999-2000 to 2001-02	286	255
2000-01 to 2002-03	287	264
2001-02 to 2003-04	287	272
2002-03 to 2004-05	287	279
2003-04 to 2005-06	303	287

Notes:
1. Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home. Gross income is from all sources received by the pensioner unit, including income from social security benefits, earnings from employment, any private pension, and tax credits.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. Figures are based on the average of three years' data for government office regions as single year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Great Britain figures are included on the same basis for comparison: further information for single years at a national level are available in the publication 'Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06 (Revised)'.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £.
5. Pensioner units are either pensioner couples or single pensioners.
6. Pensioner couples are couples where one or more of the adults are state pension age or over.

Source:
Pensioners' Income Series 2005/06 (Revised)

Pensioners: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of benefits provided by the state was to a *(a)* single pensioner and *(b)* pensioner couple in Barnsley, East and Mexborough in each year since 1997. [181046]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pensioners: Paisley

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of benefits in kind provided by the state to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in Paisley and Renfrewshire, North was in each year since 1997. [180985]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally. As a result the information requested is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected, some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and some is devolved to Scottish Ministers. The information which is available is as follows.

TV licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the following table, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming winter fuel payments in Paisley and Renfrewshire, North constituency. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

Paisley and Renfrewshire, North constituency

	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over
2004-05	9,340
2005-06	4,300
2006-07[1]	4,420

[1] Main payment run only

Notes:

1. Data for 2004-05 include West Renfrewshire, Paisley North and Paisley South as this was before the new parliamentary constituencies were divided.
2. Data prior to 2004-05 are not available.

Pensions Act 2004

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations have been made under sections *(a)* 257 and *(b)* 258 of the Pensions Act 2004. [183498]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Transfer of Employment (Pension Protection) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 649) have been made under powers contained in section 258 of the Pensions Act 2004.

Performance Appraisals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on performance appraisals, what standards of *(a)* behaviour and *(b)* attendance employees of the Department are required to meet. [181265]

Mrs. McGuire: All employees are expected to comply with the Department's Standards of Behaviour policy which is based on the Civil Service Code. A copy of this document is available in the Commons Library.

Key principles of the Department's Standards of Behaviour policy include integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality. These apply to employees at work and in aspects of their private life which may impact on their work.

Under the Department's Attendance Management policy, the majority of employees would be formally interviewed if their absences due to sickness reached or exceeded eight days in a rolling 12-month period. The specific action taken would depend on the particular circumstances of the case. In many instances, this would take into account the advice given by an occupational health specialist.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on performance appraisals, how many and what percentage of staff in his Department did not meet *(a)* some and *(b)* all of the objectives and targets in their appraisals in each of the last five years. [181266]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available.

Postal Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170177]

Mrs. McGuire: The list of companies DWP has contracts with for the provision of mail services is as follows:

Royal Mail Group: postal services (this is UK-wide via an agreed memorandum of understanding)

TNT: Internal courier services (this is a cross Government courier contract let by DWP)

UK Mail: Down Stream Access provision for second class output from DWP's regional delivery centres to customers. (This is a framework contract let by Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions.)

Spring Global Mail: International Mail (this is a DWP let contract)

Hays DX: Document Exchange service for DWP Solicitors, Debt Management and Compensation Recovery Unit (DWP access this via an HMRC let contract).

Social Security Benefits: Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which Jobcentre Plus offices offer Better Off Calculations; and if he will make a statement; [178296]

(2) in which circumstances repeat Better Off Calculations are offered; and if he will make a statement; [178297]

(3) whether Better Off Calculations take into account income from tax credits and benefits in the second year of employment; and if he will make a statement; [178298]

(4) what advice is provided to individuals along with the outcome of their Better Off Calculation; and if he will make a statement; [178299]

(5) which unit of his Department is responsible for Better Off Calculation policy. [178300]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 30 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking which Jobcentre Plus offices offer Better Off Calculations; in which circumstances repeat Better Off Calculations are offered; whether Better Off Calculations take into account income from tax credits and benefits in the second year of employment; what advice is provided to individuals along with the outcome of their Better Off Calculation and which unit of his Department is responsible for Better Off Calculation policy. This is something, which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All Jobcentre Plus offices offer Better Off Calculations. Additionally, a stand-alone version of the calculator, known as Personal Benefit Advice, is distributed on request to external organisations, such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, which enables them to offer Better Off Calculations to their customers.

Personal Advisers consider offering a Better Off Calculation during all interviews with the customer and one is performed whenever it is appropriate to do so throughout the life of the customer's claim. Guidance is available to Personal Advisers about the minimum expectations of when it is appropriate to offer a calculation to each individual customer group. For example, for lone parents calculations are expected to be reviewed at each interview in order to ensure the information is current. Equally, the customer can request a calculation at any time.

During the interview, the Personal Adviser records a 'snapshot' of the current circumstances, based on personal and financial information provided by the customer and compares this with their potential income if they were to get a job at a particular wage. This 'snapshot' takes into account any benefits or tax credits that are in payment to the customer and includes information on entitlement to both Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. The customer also gets an indication of their in work Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and tax credit entitlement when considering employment opportunities. BOC has the facility to conduct and hold two calculations (usually one on benefit and one in employment); the results are then used to produce an individual 'better off' amount.

Additional functionality has been developed, which will enable Personal Advisers to also provide a comparison of circumstances in the second year of employment. Jobcentre Plus will be able to provide this additional service each year to customers who receive a calculation in the period between the announcement of the revised tax bands in the Chancellor's Pre Budget Report and the end of the current tax year. As soon as HM Revenue and Customs confirm the revised tax bands for 2008/2009, this new enhancement will be made available to Personal Advisers.

The Better Off Calculator provides written information for the customer including advice about other in-work benefits, including Housing & Council Tax Benefits, Job Grant, Free School Meals, which helps the customer to make an informed decision about entering work.

Within the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus has responsibility for Better Off Calculations Policy.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants were prosecuted for falsely declaring income in each year since 1997, broken down by type of benefit. [181388]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information regarding the number of people prosecuted for falsely declaring income is not available for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims. The information regarding DWP administered benefits is unavailable by benefit type and is not available prior to 2005.

The available information is in the table.

Number of claimants prosecuted for falsely declaring income in DWP administered benefits

	Number of claimants
2005-2006	6,600
2006-2007	6,777

Notes:

1. "Prosecuted" means those accepted by the Department for prosecution.

2. DWP administered benefits include Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance. *Source:* Fraud Information by Sector

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Defences

9. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he has made available to the Environment Agency as flood defence grant-in-aid; and if he will make a statement. [178864]

Hilary Benn: Flood and coastal erosion risk management spending will rise from £600 million this year to £800 million in 2010-11. No final decisions have yet been made on how these record levels of investment will be allocated but a formal announcement will be made in due course. Decisions on individual regional funding allocations are a matter for the Environment Agency.

Pig Welfare

10. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to protect the welfare of pigs. [178865]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal.

More specific requirements for pig welfare are set out in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which focus on the detailed conditions pigs must be kept in.

Grain Farmers

11. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have taken place in the average income of grain farmers in each of the last two years. [178866]

Hilary Benn: Figures published this morning show that cereal farms in England saw an increase of 70 per cent. in average farm business income in 2006-07 to £56,100 with a further increase of 45 per cent. in 2007-08 to £81,100.

Whaling

12. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Japan on whaling in the Southern ocean. [178867]

Jonathan Shaw: On 8 January, I met the deputy ambassador from Japan to express the United Kingdom's outrage and to urge Japan to end its slaughter of whales. On 21 December, the UK, along with 29 other countries, also took part in a démarche calling on the Japanese to cease all their lethal scientific research on whales.

23. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Japanese Government on whaling. [178879]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no recent discussions between DEFRA Ministers and Japanese Ministers on this issue. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written 18 countries encouraging them to join for the International Whaling Commission for the greater protection of whales.

Carbon Emissions

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent

discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of cross-sectoral support to reduce waste and carbon dioxide emissions in the economy. [178868]

Hilary Benn: I regularly discuss these matters with my ministerial colleagues.

Reducing waste in order to help tackle carbon dioxide emissions is a major priority for this Department and we actively engage with all sectors through a range of initiatives, including direct support, incentives and disincentives to encourage them to play their role.

Coastal Access

14. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Natural England on public access to coastal areas. [178869]

Hilary Benn: We have held regular meetings with Natural England since it submitted its report in February 2007 on ways to improve access to the English coast.

We have announced our intention to introduce new legislation so that the public will have the right to walk around the English coast for the first time. We are seeking an appropriate opportunity to bring this forward.

Food Production: Animal Welfare

15. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take steps to ensure that food sold in England meets domestic standards of animal welfare in its production. [178870]

Jonathan Shaw: Most of the laws on farmed animal welfare are agreed at EU level and reflected in our domestic legislation. Inspections are carried out in this country to ensure compliance by producers. World trade rules prevent us from banning imports on the grounds of third country welfare standards.

Flooding: Emergency Arrangements

16. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the emergency planning arrangements applicable in circumstances of major flooding. [178871]

Hilary Benn: We have accepted all the urgent recommendations from the interim report of the Pitt Review and are working to take these forward as quickly as possible.

The Government Lead Department Plan has been revised. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, local responders, emergency services and the Environment Agency are required to assess flood risks and draw up plans to meet them. Many have been tested in real events in recent months.

Nitrate-vulnerable Zones

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the likely economic impact on farmers of the introduction of nitrate-vulnerable zones; and if he will make a statement. [178873]

Joan Ruddock: The partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) accompanying the consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England indicates that, if nitrate vulnerable zones are extended to cover 70 per cent. of England, expected costs to industry will be in the region of £53-105 million per annum. There is scope for mitigating some of these costs which may bring the overall cost impact down to £35-81 million per annum.

Food Production

18. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the environmental impacts of food production and consumption research report by Manchester Business School; and if he will make a statement. [178874]

Joan Ruddock: This is a valuable report which consolidated available evidence on the life cycle impacts of the food products in a typical UK family's shopping trolley. In line with the report's recommendations we are undertaking further research in this area and working to reduce the global impacts of UK food production and consumption, through improving products, supply chains, and influencing consumer behaviour.

Bird Registration

19. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of schedule 4 registration of birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [178875]

Joan Ruddock: A partial regulatory impact assessment that included an estimate of costs and benefits was prepared and included in the consultation on proposed changes to the bird registration scheme. This consultation took place between November 2006 and February 2007. My Department will prepare an impact assessment for amendments made to species listed on Schedule 4 and associated regulations under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The cost to DEFRA of administering the current scheme is estimated at £350,000 per year, plus approximately £100,000 in costs in administrative burdens. This does not include any enforcement costs.

Food Pricing

20. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what consideration he has given to the regulation of farm to retail price spreads, with particular reference to supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [178876]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government believe prices are for the market to determine and do not get involved, provided competition rules are respected. As the hon. Member is probably aware the Competition Commission is currently conducting an inquiry into the groceries market as a whole.

Shetland Islands

21. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the implications of the European Commission's recent ruling on Shetland Islands Council and state aid rules. [178877]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission is right to uphold the state aid rules: these are for the benefit of the whole fishing industry. However, this will impact on individual fishermen and I sympathise with the position they are in. Hence, I have offered to give proper assistance to the Shetland Islands Council in progressing its appeal.

Flood Defences: Budget

22. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the flood defence budget for 2008-09. [178878]

Hilary Benn: The funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 is based on evidence of risk and the pressures which formed part of the comprehensive spending review. It is consistent with the funding increase suggested by the Foresight Future Flooding study.

Animal Welfare: Livestock

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with Compassion in World Farming on the welfare of calves exported to Europe to be reared for veal. [178805]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has regular discussions with Compassion In World Farming, as well as other stakeholders, on the live export of calves to Europe.

Animals: Diseases

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what notifiable animal disease outbreaks have occurred in each of the last 10 years; and what the estimated cost to *(a)* the British farming industry and *(b)* the public purse was of each. [181754]

Jonathan Shaw: A list of notifiable disease outbreaks for the last 10 years (taken from previous Chief Veterinary Officer annual reports) is set out in the following table.

	Disease
2007	Avian Influenza (AI)
	Bluetongue
	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
	Contagious Equine Metritis Organism (CEMO)
	Bat Rabies (European Bat Lyssavirus Type 2)
	Tuberculosis (TB)
2006	AI
	Newcastle Disease
	Bat Rabies
	Anthrax
	CEMO
	Equine Infectious Anaemia
	Scrapie
	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
	TB
2005	Newcastle Disease
	CEMO
	Scrapie
	BSE
	Paramyxovirus (PMV) in Pigeons
	TB
2004	Brucellosis
	Scrapie
	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	Equine Viral Arteritis
	TB
2003	Scrapie
	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	CEMO
	Brucellosis
	TB
2002	Scrapie
	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	CEMO
	Anthrax
	TB
2001	Scrapie
	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	Foot and Mouth Disease
	TB
2000	Scrapie
	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	Classical Swine Fever
	TB
1999	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	Scrapie
	TB

	Disease
1998	PMV in Pigeons
	BSE
	Equine Viral Arteritis
	Scrapie
	TB

Information on the cost of all notifiable disease outbreaks is not available for each of the past 10 years. Available evidence suggests that by far the most costly exotic disease outbreak in this period was FMD in 2001, which was estimated to have cost Government £2.6 billion (in 2001 prices), leaving a further £355 million in uncompensated costs to agricultural producers.

DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector as a result of the 2007 FMD outbreak is over £100million. The estimated total cost to the Government of the outbreaks in 2007 is £47 million for FMD, £1.7 million on bluetongue and £5 million on AI (two outbreaks). The other values could only be provided at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to review the presentation of the statistics of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle to give an accurate indication of trends in TB incidence independent of any changes to testing regimes. [182373]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is currently conducting a fundamental review of its bovine tuberculosis (TB) statistics, with the aim of producing statistics that provide a reliable, comprehensive and useful description of the TB situation in Great Britain. The issue of how best to deal with the effect of changes to testing regimes on calculating TB incidence is included in the scope of the review.

Climate Change

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the UK is able to adapt to climate change. [178872]

Joan Ruddock: The Climate Change Bill, which it is hoped will receive Royal Assent by mid 2008, will provide a strong sustainable framework for adapting to the impacts of climate change. It will require Government to report at least every five years on current and predicted impacts of climate change, and on their proposals and policy for adapting to these.

Once the legislative framework is confirmed we will be publishing an adaptation policy framework setting out our approach across Government to taking action to adapt.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173842]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has a diversity team in place to develop and implement strategies that actively promote equality and diversity throughout the organisation. The team supports the business to ensure that the DEFRA work force is representative of the wider community and to improve organisational and people management performance as it relates to diversity.

The Department has a duty to comply with current equalities legislation to ensure fairness in our employment practices and in our dealings with those we serve. In particular, we have concentrated on the publication of equality schemes and on training staff to carry out effective equality impact assessments.

Following the 2004 Gershon Report which looked across government for efficiency savings, DEFRA was required to meet significant headcount reductions by March 2008. As a part of the Department's restructuring staff resources available to work on diversity has been reduced. The number of staff employed in the diversity team has therefore reduced during 2007 from 12 to four. This reduction has been achieved by mainstreaming diversity throughout the organisation and ensuring that the new team adopts a strategic focus.

The total budget for the diversity team in 2004-05 was £499,000. This reduced to £470,000 for 2005-06, and to £368,000 for 2006-07. Forecast expenditure for 2007-08 is in the region of £330,000.

The staffing costs in these three years were £346,000, £357,000 and £297,000. Current staffing costs for 2007-08 are expected to be in the region of £260,000.

Throughout 2007, DEFRA has taken significant action in relation to its statutory responsibilities as set out in equalities legislation on age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender status. Consultancy costs were circ. £50,000 to ensure the compliance of our disability, race and gender equality schemes.

DEFRA's diversity team has been working to put equality at the centre of policy making, strategic planning, service delivery and employment practice. Some of the responsibilities under the legislation include carrying out equality impact assessments, publishing equality schemes (race, gender and disability) and publishing annual employment monitoring reports.

An equalities impact assessment process has been developed and embedded into the Department's policy and project planning processes. There has also been a significant investment in the training of decision makers and policy makers in the use of the DEFRA equality impact assessment tool. This tool enables the potential impact that a policy, process or function may have on different groups to be assessed and addressed, both retrospectively and predicatively.

There has also been activity to support the progression of under-represented groups in senior management positions, and make progress against the 10 point plan for a diverse civil service. For example, the Department has developed and run positive action mentoring programmes for ~~women, ethnic minority~~ and disabled staff.

Other training products developed include 'Looking Beyond the Difference', a multi-media blended learning solution that is used by individuals and groups to raise diversity awareness and ensure that DEFRA is a place where people respect and value each other.

A number of staff networks are supported by the diversity team. There are networks for: ethnic minority staff; disabled staff; lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender; and work-life balance. These networks are made up of volunteers from around the organisation, who provide a support mechanism for their members and a rich source of advice to the Department. The diversity team allocates approximately £15,000 each year for the work of the staff networks. The cost of making reasonable adjustments for disabled staff is also met from the diversity budget.

Dogs: Quarantine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the scientific basis is for dogs arriving in the United Kingdom from areas to which the pet passport scheme does not apply to be required to spend six months in quarantine. [181648]

Jonathan Shaw: The quarantine period of six months is linked with the potential incubation period of rabies and was established in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry on Rabies in 1971 (The Waterhouse Report). The Kennedy Report (Quarantine and Rabies: A Reappraisal) published in 1998, reviewed the quarantine period and concluded that it should remain six months for countries other than those to which the pet travel scheme applies.

DEFRA is carrying out a review of its rabies import control policy, including quarantine. The evidence from the review, including an independent veterinary risk assessment of the introduction of rabies into the UK, indicates that the UK's current import controls may no longer be proportionate to the risk of rabies entering the UK. The conclusions of that review are being considered further.

No decisions have yet been made on any changes to our quarantine controls or pet travel scheme requirements and for the present all current controls continue to apply.

Landfill: Health Hazards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of landfill sites on the health and well-being of nearby residents. [182296]

Joan Ruddock: All the available evidence on the health effects of living in proximity to landfill sites was assessed and summarised in the report published by my Department in 2004, "Review of the environmental and health effects of waste management". The report was produced by Enviros and peer reviewed by the ~~Royal~~ Society and can be ~~accessed on the~~ DEFRA website.

New Forest Verderers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2305-6W, on New Forest Verderers, for what reason he declined to re-appoint Mr. Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre as Official Verderer of the New Forest; and on what sources of information he based that decision; [183422]

(2) whether he consulted the New Forest National Park Authority before declining to re-appoint Mr. Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre as Official Verderer; [183423]

(3) what assessment he has made of the level of performance of his duties as Official Verderer by Mr. Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre. [183424]

Joan Ruddock: The Official Verderer is a significant appointment and it is important that the process for selecting candidates operates transparently. Mr. Crosthwaite Eyre was first appointed in 2002 and was re-appointed in 2005 for a second three-year term, with the expectation that he would serve until 2008. Towards the end of last year Mr. Crosthwaite-Eyre intimated that he had achieved his aspirations for the post and we therefore concluded that this was an appropriate time to initiate a selection process following the principles of the code of practice for ministerial appointments to public bodies.

The National Park Authority played no part in the decision to accept the Official Verderer's offer when he placed his office at the disposal of the Crown. The performance of the Official Verderer is not in question and Mr. Crosthwaite-Eyre is free to reapply for the post if he so chooses.

Scrapie: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made towards its public service agreement target of a reduction of 40 per cent. in the prevalence of scrapie infection by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [181486]

Jonathan Shaw: The public service agreement (PSA) target was based on a 2004 model that assumed our existing voluntary ram genotyping scheme (RGS), part of the national scrapie plan, would be replaced with a compulsory scheme which was a pending EU-wide requirement. That requirement was dropped by the EU Commission at the end of 2006. A compulsory scheme has therefore not been implemented in Great Britain and we are consulting on closure of the current voluntary scheme.

The 2004 model has recently been re-run with regard to the change in the EU position and assuming that the voluntary RGS closes. It suggests that this PSA target of a 40 per cent. reduction in the prevalence of scrapie infections should nevertheless be reached in 2011.

Swine Fever

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information is made available by his Department for pig farmers on the prevention of swine fever. [182047]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has published fact sheets which include information on how to recognise the signs of classical swine fever (CSF) and guidance on biosecurity for prevention of the introduction and spread of disease. These are available in hard copy and are distributed at events such as livestock markets and agricultural shows. The fact sheets would also be issued to livestock keepers within CSF protection and surveillance zones should zones be imposed in an outbreak. The fact sheets, along with further comprehensive information for farmers on both the disease and our control policy, can be found on the CSF pages of the DEFRA website. In addition, there is regular engagement between the Government, industry and stakeholders from the pig industry to ensure a common understanding of the risks and the appropriate outbreak response.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of *(a)* classical swine fever and *(b)* African swine fever to the UK pork farming industry. [182050]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases (including classical swine fever (CSF) and African swine fever (ASF)) worldwide and assesses risks to the UK. These assessments are available on the DEFRA website. In 2007 DEFRA produced nine preliminary outbreak assessments on CSF and ASF.

The overall risk of the introduction of these two diseases to the UK has increased over the past few months, but still remains low. This emphasises the importance of strict compliance with EU rules for the trade in live pigs and their products, appropriate enforcement at the border, and compliance with the swill feeding ban in the UK.

If, despite these precautions, CSF or ASF viruses enter the country, the risk of pigs becoming infected has been reduced by the introduction of the ban on swill feeding in May 2001. If a pig is infected, the spread of the disease would be limited by the standard disease control methods DEFRA would put in place, including culling all pigs on an infected premises and dangerous contacts, and movement controls around those premises.

Swine Fever: East Anglia

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the cause of the outbreak of classical swine fever in East Anglia in 2000. [182049]

Jonathan Shaw: A full investigation was carried out according to standard epidemiological principles at the time of the outbreak. The cause was not finally established but was most likely the result of pigs eating a contaminated imported pork product.

Swine Fever: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the merits of putting operational arrangements in place to implement an emergency vaccination programme in the event of a classical swine fever outbreak. [182178]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]:* Although currently available vaccines for classical swine fever (CSF) are able to reduce mortality, it is likely that some vaccinated pigs would still be capable of transmitting the disease if they became infected, but would not display symptoms of disease. This would increase the time taken to detect and eradicate the virus.

In the event of an outbreak, swift detection and culling of infected herds is a more effective and efficient approach. Vaccination could use up resources and reduce our ability to achieve that objective. Therefore, there are currently no operational arrangements in place to mount a CSF vaccination programme, although we keep our policy on CSF vaccination under review in the light of scientific developments in vaccines.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1393-94W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, if he will place in the Library a copy of the separate study with information on larger households referred to in the answer. [178689]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for a copy of the study requested to be placed in the House Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the planned timetable is for the *(a)* running and *(b)* evaluation of waste charging pilots. [183275]

Joan Ruddock: For question *(a)*, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W.

For question *(b)*, the timetable for evaluation of the pilot household waste incentive schemes (including those which have a charging element) will in turn be dependent on their start date. As can be seen in the Climate Change Bill, we have committed to report back to Parliament on each of the pilots and we will do so when we have gathered sufficiently robust evidence.

Waste Information Services Ltd: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column1498W, on Waste Information Services Ltd: finance, for what purpose WRAP—the Waste and Resources Action Programme—made payments to Waste Information Services Ltd; and what services were provided by that company. [178690]

Joan Ruddock: Waste Information Services Ltd. has been engaged by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on two occasions in the last three years to offer specialist advice on the collection of batteries for recycling.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* representatives of foreign Governments on (i) whaling; (ii) the international moratorium on whaling, (iii) scientific whaling, (iv) whale conservation and (v) whale-related tourism; and if he will make a statement; [181196]

(2) when the most recent ministerial-level discussion was held on whaling; on what dates since 2005 Ministers from his Department have discussed whaling with colleagues in other Departments; when he next intends to discuss whaling with Cabinet colleagues; and if he will make a statement. [181197]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA Ministers have discussed whaling with colleagues in other Government Departments whenever the opportunity has arisen.

On the topic of scientific whaling, I met with Japanese embassy officials on 8 January to express the UK's outrage over Japan's 'scientific' whaling activities.

The UK has made representations to foreign governments through our publication 'Protecting Whales—Global Responsibility' (endorsed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Brown) and Sir David Attenborough) which has been sent to over 60 countries urging nations to protect these species worldwide. This publication has recently been updated, including a new section on whale-related tourism with the Prime Minister stating on the day of release that

> "The current and future benefits from whale watching far exceed those from killing whales."

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) has also written to 18 countries encouraging them to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) for the greater protection of these species through inter alia upholding the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling.

PRIME MINISTER

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings officials from his Office have had with BAA on *(a)* Crossrail and *(b)* expansion of Heathrow Airport since June 2007; if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each of those meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183608]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Justine Greening: To ask the Prime Minister when officials in his Office were first shown a draft of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" public consultation document; and if he will make a statement. [183609]

The Prime Minister: Department for Transport officials engaged with other Government Departments, including my Office, at various stages during the development of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document.

The draft consultation document, including the consultation stage impact assessment, received collective clearance in November 2007.

JUSTICE

Compensation: Mining

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to recompense miners for the mishandling of their compensation claims as set out in the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner's report entitled Investigation into the Handling of Coal Health Compensation Schemes Complaints by the Legal Complaints Service and Solicitors Regulation Authority dated 15th January 2008. [183605]

Bridget Prentice: The responsibility for dealing with complaints about solicitors is a matter for the Law Society, as the legal profession is currently self-regulating. However, I am aware of Members continued interest regarding claims under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme and I am particularly grateful to colleagues who have assisted, working with the Law Society's Legal Complaints Services to resolve outstanding issues and raise awareness. The Government believe that it is important that miners who complain to the Law Society about their claims under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme get the level of service and compensation that they deserve. The Government have sought regular updates from the Law Society to ensure that progress is being made in continually improving the service, and are awaiting a detailed response from the Law Society to the Legal Services Complaints Commissioners' Special Report.

It is our understanding that the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has authorised investigations into 60 firms of solicitors; 20 firms have been referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and the SRA has won the first three disciplinary cases heard there. To date, solicitors have refunded over £3 million to miners and this figure is expected to rise as more investigations are completed. The Legal Complaints Service has received 2,884 complaints to date, of which 2,038 have been closed. This has resulted in excess of £700,000 being recovered for former miners or their relatives.

The Government have legislated in the Legal Services Act 2007 to create an independent Office for Legal Complaints, which will remove complaints handling from the legal professional bodies it will also enable approved regulators to deal more effectively with cases of widespread wrongdoing in the future.

Coroners

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates, in chronological order, the inquests into the deaths of *(a)* Sergeant Simon Hamilton-Jewell, *(b)* Corporal Russell Aston, *(c)* Corporal Paul, Long, *(d)* Corporal Simon Miller, *(e)* Lance Corporal Benjamin Hyde, *(f)* Lance Corporal Thomas Keys, *(g)* Captain James Linton, *(h)* Captain David Jones, *(i)* Major Matthew Titchener, *(j)* Warrant Officer Colin Wall, *(k)* Corporal Dewi Pritchard, *(l)* Fusilier Russell Beeston, *(m)* Corporal Ian Plank, *(n)* Private Ryan Thomas, *(o)* Rifleman Vincent Windsor, *(p)* Sapper Robert Thomson, *(q)* Corporal Richard Ivell, *(r)* Private Christopher Rayment, *(s)* Private Marc Ferns, *(t)* Lance Corporal Paul Thomas, *(u)* Fusilier Stephen Jones, *(v)* Corporal Marc Taylor, *(w)* Private David Lawrence, *(x)* Private Kevin McHale, *(y)* Sergeant Stuart Gray, *(z)* Private Paul Lowe, *(aa)* Private Scott McArdle, *(ab)* Sergeant Paul Connelly, *(ac)* Flight Lieutenant Paul Pardoel, *(ad)* Major Matthew Bacon, *(ae)* Captain Ken Masters, *(af)* Sergeant Christian Hickey and *(ag)* Sergeant John Jones took place. [178694]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the following table and tables attached to a written ministerial statement made today on progress with the inquests into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Name of deceased	*Date of inquest heard*
Captain James Linton	24 February2004
Private Kevin McHale	17 August 2005
Corporal Richard Ivell	17 August 2005
Private Christopher Rayment	21September 2005
Fusilier Stephen Jones	21 September 2005
Sapper Robert Thomson	21 September 2005
Corporal Dewi Pritchard	11 October 2005
Major Matthew Titchener	11 October 2005
Warrant Officer 2 Colin Wall	11 October 2005
Fusilier Russell Beeston	11 October 2005
Lance Corporal Paul Thomas	12 October 2005
Captain David Jones	16 November 2005
Private Marc Ferns	16 November 2005
Sergeant Stuart Gray	14 December 2005
Private Paul Lowe	14 December 2005
Private Scott McArdle	14 December 2005
Rifleman Vincent Windsor	18 January 2006
Gunner David Lawrence	15 February 2006
Corporal Marc Taylor	15 February 2006
Corporal Russell Ashton	13 March 2006
Sergeant Simon Hamilton- Jewell	13 March 2006
Lance Corporal Benjamin Hyde	13 March 2006
Lance Corporal Thomas Keys	13 March 2006
Corporal Paul Long	13 March 2006
Corporal Simon Miller	13 March 2006
Corporal Ian Plank	5 April 2006
Private Ryan Thomas	16 May 2006
Sergeant Paul Connolly	17 May 2006
Major Matthew Bacon	22 May 2006
Captain Ken Masters	27 June 2006
Sergeant John Jones	27 July 2006
Sergeant Chris Hickey	15 September 2006
Flight Lieutenant Paul Pardoel	[1]—

[1] Date listed for hearing 31 March 2008

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice upon what dates, in chronological order, the coroner's inquests upon the deaths of *(a)* Lance Corporal Barry Stephen, *(b)* Trooper David Jeffrey Clarke, *(c)* Staff Sergeant Chris Muir, *(d)* Lieutenant Alexander Tweedie and *(e)* Lance Corporal James McCue took place. [183210]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the following table and the tables attached to a written ministerial statement made today on progress with the inquests into the deaths of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Inquests were not held into the deaths of Trooper Clarke, whose body was not found, or Lieutenant Tweedie, who died of his injuries in Scotland. Inquests were, however, held into the deaths of Corporal Stephen Allbutt (12 July 2007) and Lance Corporal Karl Shearer (24 to 26 January 2007) who died in the same incidents. At the inquests into the deaths of Corporal Allbutt and Lance Corporal Shearer evidence was heard about the deaths of Trooper Clarke and Lieutenant Tweedie respectively.

Name of deceased	*Date of inquest heard*
Staff Sergeant Chris Muir	14 August 2003
Lance Corporal Barry Stephen	23 February 2005
Lance Corporal James McCue	16 November 2005

Custodial Treatment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average distance was between the place of custody of *(a)* male prisoners, *(b)* female prisoners and *(c)* young offenders and recorded home address in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many of each category were detained more than (i) 50 and (ii) 100 miles away from home in each such year. [178748]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the average distance from home for male and female prisoners and young offenders (male and female under 21 years) in each of the last 10 years.

Miles

	Average distance from home for male prisoners	*Average distance from home for female prisoners*	*Average distance from home for young offenders*
1998	52	63	51
1999	56	66	53
2000	55	63	52
2001	53	65	51
2002	53	64	51
2003	52	68	49
2004	51	62	48
2005	50	58	47
2006	50	58	50
2007	49	55	50

The following table shows the number of male and female prisoners and young offenders (male and female under 21 years) held between 50 and 100 miles, and over 100 miles from home in each of the last 10 years.

	Male prisoners held		*Female prisoners held*		*Young offenders held*	
	between 50 and 100 miles from home	*over 100 miles from home*	*between 50 and 100 miles from home*	*over 100 miles from home*	*between 50 and 100 miles from home*	*over 100 miles from home*
1998	12,500	9,000	950	500	2,500	1,200
1999	13,200	10,400	900	700	2,600	1,350
2000	13,200	10,200	900	600	2,700	1,250
2001	13,000	9,700	1100	800	2,850	1,050
2002	13,600	10,900	1000	1000	2,650	1,250
2003	13,200	10,900	1000	1100	2,450	1,100
2004	14,900	9,200	1100	900	2,600	1,050
2005	14,600	8,800	900	600	2,550	1,050
2006	16,000	10,000	1100	800	2,950	1,200
2007	17,100	10,100	1000	800	2,850	1,300

Figures for both tables are taken from sample data, not necessarily in the same month each year.

Where no home address is listed for a male or female prisoner or young offender the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Democratic Engagement

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timescale he is proposing for a Speakers Conference on democratic engagement. [183169]

Mr. Wills: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister proposed in his speech to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations last year that a Speaker's Conference be established, to bring together the parties at Westminster to consider, against the backdrop of a decline in turnout, a number of electoral issues including the representation of women and ethnic minorities in the House of Commons. I hope to make an announcement on the way forward shortly.

Electoral Register

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the report of the Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on voter registration in the UK. [183022]

Bridget Prentice: I have not received any representations. I am, however, aware of early day motion 754.

Judiciary: Complaints

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the judiciary were received by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [180907]

Mr. Straw: The Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC) was established in April 2006 replacing its predecessor the Judicial Correspondence Unit (JCU). The OJC was created by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and handles complaints about the alleged personal misconduct of judicial office holders in accordance with the provisions of the Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations 2006.

Unlike the OJC, the statistics for the JCU do not distinguish between inquiries and complaints, nor do they include data on complaints against tribunal members or lay magistrates. In addition, complaints received by the JCU were recorded by calendar year, whereas complaints received by the OJC are recorded by financial year in order to tie in with the business planning and resource cycles. Direct comparison between JCU and OJC statistics are therefore not possible.

The first table details the number of complaints and inquiries received by the JCU for each year from 2002 to 2005. The second table details the number of complaints received by the OJC during financial year 2006-07.

	Complaints and inquiries received by the JCU
2002	1,191
2003	1,122
2004	1,004
2005	1,600

A further 246 complaints were received by the JCU between January and April 2006.

	Complaints received by the OJC
2006-07	1,674

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how prison and probation service property is defined; and what the value of that property is. [181939]

Mr. Hanson: Prison and Probation Service property is valued (and therefore defined) in line with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' and government accounting guidance. The net value of the prison and probation land and buildings (including private finance initiative premises and excluding construction work in progress) held on the NOMS asset register at the 31 March 2007 was £6,351 million.

National Offender Management Service: Accountancy

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what annual cost of depreciation is used for accounting purposes at the National Offender Management

Service (NOMS); what formula is used to calculate it; and whether depreciation is accounted for as a current cost in NOMS. [181938]

Mr. Hanson: The element of depreciation relating to NOMS for 2006-07 was £202.8 million. Land and buildings are valued at current value and other operational assets at open market value and depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis. Depreciation rates are based on asset lives which vary dependant upon the asset. The depreciation charge is included in NOMS' resource expenditure, i.e. a current cost.

Offenders: Databases

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individual offender records of individuals in prison or on probation were held on electronic databases in each of the last six years. [182108]

Mr. Hanson: All offenders in prison or under probation service supervision will be recorded on prison and probation administrative IT systems. The table shows (a) the prison population as at 30 June each year and (b) the number of offenders under probation service supervision in the community as at 31 December each year in England and Wales 2002-07:

		Probation supervision	
	Prison population	*Court orders*	*Persons supervised under post-release*
2002	71,218	116,125	22,000
2003	73,657	120,734	21,106
2004	74,488	128,217	22,739
2005	76,190	137,377	25,603
2006	77,982	146,532	26,096
2007	79,734	149,045	26,763

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many new prison places he plans to provide in 2008; in which prison each new place will be located; what type of structure each cell will be; what the life expectancy of each cell provided will be; and what the average cost of building each place is estimated to be; [178753]

(2) how many new prison places became operational in 2007; in which prison each place was located; what type of structure each cell was; what the life expectancy of each cell is; and what the average cost of building each place was. [178754]

Mr. Straw: New prison places delivered during 2007 as part of the Prison Capacity Programme are listed in the following table.

Location	*Places*	*Construction type*	*Lifetime (Years)*
Lowdham Grange	106	Houseblock	60
Kennet	342	Conversion	10-15
Featherstone	64	RBRu	40
Garth	180	Houseblock	60
Channings Wood	64	TCM	25
Altcourse	180	Houseblock	60
The Mount	44	RBRu	40
Stocken	120	Houseblock	60
Whatton	60	TCM	25
Haverigg	64	RBRu	40
Lindholme	60	TCM	25
Highdown	178	Houseblock	60
Hindley	60	TCM	25
Total for 2007	1,522	—	—

The new places planned for 2008 are listed in the following table. The programme of delivery may be subject to change.

Location	*Places*	*Construction type.*	*Lifetime (Years)*
Stoke Heath[1]	60	TCM	25
Ranby	60	TCM	25
Portland	64	RBRu	40
Send	64	RBRu	40
Erlestoke	60	TCM	25
Wayland	300	TCF	25
Acklington	64	RBRu	40
Isle of Wight	68	Conversion	Minimum 25
Lewes	176	Houseblock	60
Stocken	64	RBRu	40
Kirklevington Grange	60	TCM	25
Blundeston	60	TCM	25
Highdown	180	Houseblock	60
Brinsford	64	RBRu	40
Wymott	64	RBRu	40
Bullingdon	120	Houseblock	60
Coldingley	124	RBRu	40
Highpoint	64	RBRu	40
Ashwell	64	RBRu	40
Rochester	300	TCF	25
Swaleside	180	Houseblock	60
Onley	64	RBRu	40
Total for 2008	2,324	—	

[1] Delivered in January 2008.

There are a further 249 places planned in 2008 for which planning permission is being sought.

Building type	*Capital cost per place per year of lifespan[1] (£)*
Houseblock	3,660
RBRu	4,400
TCM	4,300
TCF	4,800

[1] Published in Lord Carter's Review of Prisons: Securing the Future.

RBRu—Rapid Build Residential unit.

TCM—Temporary Custodial Module in a number of different layouts.

TCF—Temporary Facility.

The cost per place for conversions is dependent on a number of factors including the nature of the existing buildings, the amount of work required and the time scale for delivery.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* assessment he has made of, and *(b)* research he has commissioned into, the relative performance of larger and smaller prisons. [178763]

Mr. Hanson: No research has been commissioned into the relative performance of larger as opposed to smaller prisons. Latest Prison Service Performance Ratings, published in December 2007, show that the largest prisons are performing satisfactorily.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of new prison places that will become available for use between 25 January 2008 and *(a)* 31 July 2008 and *(b)* 1 December 2008; and what estimate he has made of the net number of prison places available at each date. [178779]

Mr. Straw: Between 25 January 2008 and 31 July the Prison Capacity programme is planned to deliver around 1,450 places and a total of around 2,500 by the end of the year.

Current capacity forecasts indicate that the net capacity of the prison estate will be around 83,400 at the end of July and around 84,800 by the end of December.

Prisoners Transfers: Costs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of transferring prisoners *(a)* from one prison to another and *(b)* to and from court was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [178752]

Mr. Hanson: Details of the costs of transferring prisoners to one prison from another in England and Wales using the inter-prison transfer contract are held by financial year and are set out in the following table:

	Cost of inter prison transfers (£ million)
2002-03	5.50
2003-04	5.64
2004-05	5.79
2005-06	5.97
2006-07	7.38

Since August 2004 the contracts for the escort of prisoners have included a separate payment for every prisoner journey undertaken. The payment covers vehicle and staff costs. Details of these payments for escorting prisoners to and from courts in England and Wales are available by calendar year from 2005 and are set out in the following table:

	Cost of escorting prisoners courts to and from courts (£ million)
2005	50.38
2006	52.6
2007	54.88

The figures include the cost of all prisoner journeys in the London and south-east contract area as to separate the escort of prisoners from police stations to prisons from the invoiced total could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Military Bases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what redundant military facilities he is considering for conversion into prison accommodation. [178768]

Mr. Straw: The site at the former RAF Coltishall has been identified as suitable for conversion to a prison.

Consideration will be given to further suitable military sites as they are identified.

Probation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of resources to the Probation Service in relation to its caseload. [178765]

Mr. Hanson: Funding is allocated to local probation boards using a formula based on statistical data including population and sentencing.

Probation boards are responsible for managing their workload in accordance with Service Level Agreements which are established in negotiation with the regional offender manager. It is the responsibility of the board to deploy resources effectively in order to meet objectives and targets.

Rape: Sentencing

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of rape in each of the last three years received *(a)* a determinate prison sentence, *(b)* a life sentence, *(c)* an indeterminate sentence for public protection and *(d)* any other disposal; and what was the average determinate sentence length and average tariff for life and indeterminate sentences. [182298]

Mr. Straw: I regret that not all the requested information is available. The available information is contained in the table. In particular, due to the nature of our current administrate systems it is not possible to calculate the average custodial sentence length for life and indeterminate sentences. In the light of the hon. Member's question I have asked for further work to be done on sentencing estimates of indeterminate and life sentences.

Figures for 2007 will be available from autumn 2008.

Number of persons sentenced[1] for rape[2], method of disposal and average sentence length[3], all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

Defendants

Offence	*Year*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Average sentence length[1]*	*Life sentences[4]*	*Otherwise dealt with*
Rape[2]	2004	2	2	—	16	—	713	85.1	62	9

Number of persons sentenced[1] for 'rape'[2], method of disposal and average sentence length[3], all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

Defendants

Offence	*Year*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Fully suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Average sentence length[3]*	*Life sentences[4]*	*Otherwise dealt with*
	2005		1	1	32	2	746	81.8	74	12
	2006	1	1	—	40	—	803	81.2	202	17

[1] Principal offence basis.

[2] Includes rape of a male and a female.

[3] Months. Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

[4] Includes Indeterminate sentences for Public Protection (IPPs).

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice 28 January 2008. Ref: PQ(RN)029-08

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid by her Department and its predecessor to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by her Department to Capita Group plc in each year since 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if she will make a statement. [180709]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of spend with the Capita and its subsidiaries before 2002 is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) by my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 97-8W, and to the reply given by the former hon. Member for Shipley (Mr. Leslie) to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 29 January 2003, *Official Report*, column 862W. These answers give some background to spend with Capita prior to 2005.

Communities and Local Government's spend with Capita and its subsidiaries since 2005-06 is as follows:

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2005-06	2,487,330
2006-07	1,173,273
2007 to December 2007	508,026

Since April 2006 Communities and Local Government have kept central records for contracts awarded for over £20,000. Details of contracts awarded before that date can be given only at disproportionate cost. Since 2006 two contracts have been awarded to Capita Resourcing Ltd. They were for commercial and legal management support to the Housing Employment and Mobility Services project.

Both contracts were valued at £139,065 each.

It is departmental policy to pay suppliers in arrears and so protect funds in the event of a default. Also, contracts are awarded using contract terms and conditions that allow us to revise payments because of unsatisfactory performance.

The contracts were and are of six months duration.

The first contract was awarded as a single tender. The strategy adopted to award the second was to seek expressions of interest from a Cabinet Office framework agreement.

Three companies duly submitted tenders and were considered.

Several criteria were used for evaluating the tenders. These were:

understanding the requirement;

evidence of recent experience;

methodology;

management;

quality of the bid; value for money.

The contracts included options to extend for a further six months.

The balance of spend with Capita has been on a variety of lower value contracts particularly around the storage and distribution of departmental publications. This spend was through a collaborative framework contract set up jointly with the Department for Transport in 2002 and full details of which could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Community Relations: Religion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the regional inter-faith forums will be based on the Government Office for the Regions boundaries. [182593]

Mr. Dhanda: Regional faith forums are independent of Government and determine their own organisational boundaries.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual budget is for the regional inter-faith forums. [182595]

Mr. Dhanda: Regional faith forums are independent and are not funded by central Government. We are currently consulting on where additional investment might be needed to help sustain interfaith activity.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W, on council tax: empty property, which organisation has been commissioned to undertake the research; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the tender notice or terms of reference for the research; [182888]

(2) what the timetable is for the completion of the Roger Tym Partnership/Three Dragons report into council tax and empty properties. [182574]

John Healey: Roger Tym and Partners in association with Three Dragons have been appointed to undertake the research. We expect to publish the report in the spring. I have placed a copy of the specification of work on which the contract is let in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 540W, on council tax: Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, what the maximum levy that can be charged by the authority is. [182925]

John Healey: A ceiling for the levy is determined by a formula prescribed in The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 19921 which is adjusted annually to account for changes in the retail prices index.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared services are operated by her Department; and what the timetable is for the implementation of new shared services by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies. [180188]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government operates three shared services. It provides the internal audit services for a range of other Departments, agencies and NDPBs including DCMS and the Cabinet Office. It has a finance shared service that covers a number of other Government Departments and agencies including DFT and MOJ and provides records management and library and information services to DFT.

As part of a programme of continuous improvement in corporate services, the Department continues to assess opportunities for driving further efficiency and effectiveness through shared services with the Government office network, agencies and NDPBs.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of emails printed by officials in her Department. [179472]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government's policy is to reduce paper consumption by encouraging our staff to:

only print e-mails and documents when absolutely necessary;

introduction of new multi-functional devices (MFD's) where print software automatically defaults to duplex printing and/or print more than one page per sheet;

use scrap or used paper in place of post it notes where practical; and

make greater use of computer applications for reviewing and commenting on draft documents.

This is facilitated by reducing paper filing space in our offices.

We are also investigating options to introduce a uniform e-mail tagline reminding mail recipients to only print e-mails and other documents when necessary.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1525W, on departmental marketing, for how long display boards with the names and photographs of Ministers have been present in the foyers of her Department's two main central London buildings. [182621]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department put the display boards in place following its creation in May 2006.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what weight of paper her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179461]

Mr. Dhanda: The weight of paper recycled at Communities and Local Government in each of the last five years is as follows:

London headquarters

Tonnes

	Recycled paper
2002-03	n/k
2003-04	79
2004-05	91
2005-06	102

n/k = not known

Notes:

1. Figures include paper, light cardboard and confidential waste but not heavy cardboard which is baled and recycled separately.

2. Figures do not include data from the regional Government offices.

We do not hold full data for the Department's executive agencies.

Recycling data for 2006-07 are currently being verified by the Government SD watchdog—the Sustainable Development Commission. Their 2006-07 report is due to be published in March 2008.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service funding for 2008-09. [183087]

Mr. Dhanda: During the consultation for the 2008-09 to 2010-11 Local Government Finance settlement, the Department received two representations, both from the authority, regarding funding for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.

Since the consultation deadline of 8 January 2008, the Department has received three further letters regarding funding for Devon and Somerset FRA, one from the authority and two from hon. Members. The main issue in all these representations relates to the changes to the funding of the firefighter pension scheme that occurred in the 2006-07 settlement.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the impact of the proposed grant settlement for Devon and Somerset Fire Service for 2008-09 on fire service cover and public safety in Ilfracombe. [183089]

Mr. Dhanda: Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant, and authorities have no restrictions as to how they use their formula grant allocation on the services they provide.

Fire and Rescue Authorities are required by the Fire and Rescue National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP process is about developing local and flexible plans to manage the risks of fire and all kinds of other emergencies, based on up to date local evidence, which will provide communities with a better targeted service and improved value for money. Each authority is responsible for determining its policies and standards for prevention and intervention in the light of the risks identified.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service: Pensions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the impact of changes to fire-fighters' pensions on Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service as compared to other fire services. [183088]

Mr. Dhanda: The new financing arrangements for firefighters' pensions were designed to counter the yearly volatility in pension expenditure and to ensure authorities' budgets reflect the cost of providing their services. The benefits should be judged over a period, not just a single year. All fire and rescue authorities have been provided with pensions top-up grant to cover deficits in their pension funds in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The deficits are expected to increase over the next three years with corresponding increases in grant.

The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 was designed to ensure the affordability of special pension arrangements for firefighters while aiding recruitment and retention. The admission of retained firefighters, who had been excluded from the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme, was designed to ensure equal treatment with regular firefighters. Although the 1992 and 2006 schemes are national, they are administered locally by fire and rescue authorities, who will interpret their application to the circumstances of individual firefighters. This makes a valid comparison between authorities difficult to achieve.

Electoral Register

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research the Audit Commission *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* is planning to undertake into the accuracy of the electoral register. [182584]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

Parliamentary Question on what research the Audit Commission (a) has undertaken and (b) is planning to undertake into the accuracy of the electoral register

Your Parliamentary Question on what research the Audit Commission (a) has undertaken and (b) is planning to undertake into the accuracy of the electoral register has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission has not undertaken, and is not planning to undertake, any research into the accuracy of the electoral register as it does not have the powers to do so. The electoral register is available publicly, and can be challenged, which is how it is 'policed'.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Fire Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the business case for FireControl. [178661]

Mr. Dhanda: The business case for the FiReControl project is a constantly evolving document. Ministers review each version of the business case before its publication and the latest version is 1.0, that was published in June 2007.

The scale and nature of incidents that the Fire and Rescue Service is called upon to respond to has increased over recent years. Climate change, which leads to extreme weather events, and terrorism are already major threats. Planning for the future must reflect this reality: a strategy for replacing current controls is essential and has an important part to play in building resilience; doing nothing is not an option if the public is to be better protected. Accordingly, the

Government have taken the lead in achieving this through a collaborative project with the Fire and Rescue Service—FiReControl.

Fire Services: Eastern Region

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the original projected cost was of the East of England regional fire control centre; and what the most recent projected cost is. [182790]

Mr. Dhanda: The contracted annual rental for the East of England Regional Fire Control Centre is £1,349,322.00 uplifted by 2.5 per cent. inflation per year, applied every five years. This annual rental figure remains unchanged from when the contract was entered on 8 August 2005.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when work was originally planned to start on the East of England regional fire control centre; when she now expects work to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish; and if she will make a statement. [182791]

Mr. Dhanda: Construction is in progress. I understand that the developer started work in February 2007. The target practical completion date of the building is 1 October 2008.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the site of the proposed East of England Regional Fire Control Centre was purchased; from whom it was purchased; how much it cost; and where it is located. [182798]

Mr. Dhanda: The East of England Regional Control Centre is located at Cambridge Research Park, Plot 5100, Beach Drive, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, CB25 9AP. The site is privately owned and it has never been owned by Communities and Local Government.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will compensate fire authorities under the new burdens principle for Firelink service charges. [182253]

Mr. Dhanda: The ongoing revenue costs of the Firelink system, arising from service charges, will be funded as required under the new burdens rules.

Fire Services: Pensions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters retired through ill health and were entitled to ill health retirement and a pension in each of the 10 years prior to the 2004 amendment to the Firefighters Pension Scheme; and how many were entitled in each subsequent year. [182052]

Mr. Dhanda: The following are the figures for retirements of whole-time firefighters in England and Wales for 1993 to 2004-05; and England only for 2005-06:

	Ill-health retirements	*All retirement*
1993	834	1,122
1994	854	1,124
1995	762	1,061
1996	723	1,041
1997	736	1,180
1998-99	655	1,106
1999-2000	704	1,107
2000-01	715	1,090
2001-02	683	1,051
2002-03	637	1,356
2003-04	589	1,106
2004-05	343	1,385
2005-06	287	1,334

Source:
HMFSI annual reports and annual returns to DCLG

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is responsible for auditing the expenditure *(a)* in the six area trial for home information packs (HIPs) and *(b)* the funding for the energy performance certificates to be included in HIPs ordered prior to 1 August. [171580]

Caroline Flint: The Department's programmes and systems are subject to periodical audit by its internal audit service and the National Audit Office.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the use of home information packs by estate agents in England since inception. [175349]

Caroline Flint: Our monitoring arrangements do not capture specific data on the use made of home information packs by estate agents. However, the Department's HIPs regional coordinators visit approximately 70 estate agents a week across England and Wales to listen to feedback and gather information.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the deadlines are for marketing homes without a home information pack, in relation to *(a)* four or more bedroom homes, *(b)* three bedroom homes and *(c)* all other homes. [176325]

Caroline Flint: Home Information Packs were introduced for homes with four or more bedrooms from 1 August 2007, for three-bedroom properties from 10 September 2007 and for all remaining residential properties from 14 December 2007. No date has yet been set when those properties marketed before the relevant commencement dates are required to have a Home Information Pack.

Home Information Packs: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration has been given to requiring the inclusion of information on risk of flooding in home information packs. [179739]

Caroline Flint: Searches relating to the risk of flooding are authorised documents for inclusion in the home information pack. The mandatory inclusion of these searches in the home information pack is one of a number of measures being considered as part of the reform of the home buying and selling process.

Information on flood risk for a particular postcode is available free of charge on the Environment Agency website for any member of the public to access.

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive the results of the Ipsos MORI independent evaluation of the home information pack trial. [173746]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what ability the proposed new Homes and Communities Agency will have to make decisions on *(a)* housing and *(b)* planning over and above the decision-making process of local authorities. [171709]

Caroline Flint: Clause 13 of the Housing and Regeneration Bill allows the Secretary of State to designate an area as suitable for development where one of two conditions are met. Where an area is designated planning functions may be conferred upon the Homes and Communities Agency.

The power to designate an area and confer planning functions on a specially created body is not new. The power in clause 13 is based on the provisions in the Leasehold Reform Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 in relation to the Urban Regeneration Agency (URA).

As in the case of the URA, the Homes and Communities Agency will not have any planning powers as of right. Any planning powers that are conferred on it must be set out in the order designating the area of land over which it is to be the local planning authority and will need to be exercised within the existing planning regime. The order is made by the Secretary of State and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

Housing: Competition

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to increase competition in the market for property purchase local searches. [182254]

Caroline Flint: The Department published guidance on 18 January: 'Personal searches of the local land charges register and other records held by local authorities—Good practice guidance for local authorities and personal searchers'; and the consultation paper 'Local Authority Property Search Services: Charges for Property Search Services—A consultation paper'. The consultation period ends on 18 April.

Together these two documents aim to deliver the level playing field that the Office of Fair Trading identified as being necessary to increase competition in the provision of property searches.

Housing: Inspections

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of qualified *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors in (i) Rochford and Southend, East constituency, (ii) England and (iii) Wales. [176088]

Caroline Flint: The most recent published data as at 29 November 2007 provides the following information on the number of accredited home inspectors and domestic energy assessors in Rochford and Southend, East constituency, England and Wales.

	Number
Southend, East	8
England	5,314
Wales	333

Housing: Local Government Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* right-to-buy receipts, *(b)* transfer receipts and *(c)* other housing receipts were (i) paid to the Department and (ii) retained by local authorities in each year since 1997. [162014]

Caroline Flint: Under the 'set-aside' regime, which ran until 1 April 2004, with-debt local authorities were required to set aside a proportion of the capital receipt generated by the disposal of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset, for repayment of housing debt. For right to buy that proportion was 75 per cent. For stock-transfer receipts the set-aside was also 75 per cent. unless the value of the housing debt exceeded 75 per cent. in which case the amount to be set aside was raised until it met the value of the debt. For other, non-dwelling sales, the proportion of set-aside was 50 per cent. The local authority was free to use the remaining 25-50 per cent. respectively for any capital purpose they chose.

The Department recorded the value of capital receipts set-aside but no differentiation was made between RTB sales, transfer receipts and other disposals of housing assets which generated a capital receipt.

The gross value of right to buy capital receipts and the gross value of transfer receipts were collected as separate exercises—though the value of set-aside resulting from these receipts cannot be separately identified.

The following table shows the gross receipts from Large Scale Voluntary Transfers (LSVT) of local authority housing from 1997-98 to date, the gross value of right to buy receipts generated by disposals in both with-debt and debt-free authorities from 1997-98, the value of capital receipts set-aside from 1997-98 to 2002-03 and the value of pooled capital receipts for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

£ million

	Transfer receipts	*Total RTB receipts*	*Set-aside/pooled capital receipts*
1997-98	259.67	890	943
1998-99	483.94	911	1,085
1999-2000	658.67	1,374	1,477
2000-01	830.20	1,426	1,626
2001-02	377.73	1,566	1,382
2002-03	545.87	2,210	1,626
2003-04	140.83	2,936	No data
2004-05	200.40	2,575	1,694
2005-06	128.53	1,544	1,067
2006-07	91.98	1,145	843
2007-08 to date	156.86	No data	No data

Note:

The Department does not collect data on the level of debt actually repaid using transfer receipts. This is a treasury management decision for the local authority. The only data collected on transfer receipts is their total value. No data on set-aside was collected for 2003-04 as a result of the transition to the pooling regime which was introduced in 2004-05. The Department does not collect data on the value of receipts retained by local authorities.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the equivalent notional APR is of interest charged to a HomeBuyer under the 32.5 per cent. open market HomeBuy scheme when they sell their property and are obliged to share any increase in property value with the HomeBuy Agency and Yorkshire Building Society, assuming annual property price inflation over the period of the loan of *(a)* 4 per cent., *(b)* 8 per cent. and *(c)* 12 per cent. [180391]

Caroline Flint: Under the open market HomeBuy product offered in partnership with Yorkshire Building Society, which offers equity loans of up to 32.5 per cent. of the purchase price, buyers repay their equity loans to the HomeBuy Agent and the Yorkshire Building Society on resale of the property at the rate at which their home has increased in value. Assuming annual property price inflation over the period of the loan of *(a)* 4 per cent., *(b)* 8 per cent. and *(c)* 12 per cent. the equivalent notional APR of interest charged on the equity loans on resale of the property will be 4 per cent., 8 per cent. or 12 per cent. respectively.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the role of HomeBuy agents in marketing housing schemes for first time buyers. [164560]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply he was given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 148W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed social HomeBuy sales there have been to date among *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities. [176183]

Caroline Flint: In April 2006 four social landlords began piloting Social HomeBuy on a voluntary basis. The Social HomeBuy scheme allows participating local authorities and housing associations to offer tenants living in social rented accommodation the opportunity to purchase discounted shares of their home starting with an initial share of 25 per cent. The scheme will continue to increase opportunities for social housing tenants to access homeownership.

The majority of the 138 sales to end December 2007 have come from completions with the first phase of participating landlords, most of whom joined in late 2006. 135 sales were from housing associations and three were from local authorities. Since April 2007 a second phase of landlords have joined the scheme and are now offering Social HomeBuy to their tenants. As with normal home purchases it can take several months to reach completion.

Housing: Planning

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role regional Ministers will play in deciding applications for housing growth points; who will make the final decision on such applications; and when each decision will be made. [179825]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: Regional Ministers do not have a specific role in the consideration of expressions of interest for growth points. Following consultation with other Government Departments, agencies and regional bodies, Communities and Local Government Ministers intend to make a final decision on the selected schemes shortly. However, all growth point expressions of interest will be subject to testing through the planning system.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under the proposed changes to the Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change whether a demonstration that reaching the target of sourcing 10 per cent. of energy from on-site renewable sources was unachievable would be required before energy provision from off-site renewable sources would be taken into account in planning decisions. [167136]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 November 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to PQ 165247.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of off-site in relation to the provision of energy from renewable sources for new developments; and whether this definition is the same as that used in the Code for Sustainable Buildings. [167137]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 November 2007]*: The Code for Sustainable Homes technical guidance (available on the Department's website) sets out the definition of zero carbon for the purposes of the code and makes clear that off-site renewable contributions can only be used where these are directly supplied to the dwellings by private wire arrangement. This is in line with the general policy set out in "Building a Greener Future" policy document (available from the Department's website). As set out in "Building a Greener Future" as new evidence emerges about the cost and practicalities, and as technologies develop, we will develop the definition of zero carbon for the purposes of building regulations, after full consultation and within a sensible time frame that will allow the industry to adjust before the planned changes in 2016.

Housing: Sales

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the administration budget was for *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative in each of the last five years; [170353]

(2) what the marketing budget was for *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy, *(c)* Open Market HomeBuy and *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative in each of the last five years. [170354]

Yvette Cooper: The HomeBuy schemes, including the First Time Buyers Initiative, commenced on 1 April 2006. Funding arrangements for the marketing and administration costs vary depending on the HomeBuy product and are not separately identifiable.

The network of 23 HomeBuy agents provide a 'one-stop-shop' for HomeBuy applicants and handle the application process for *(c)* open market HomeBuy and *(b)* new build HomeBuy, including *(d)* the First Time Buyers Initiative. HomeBuy agents are responsible for raising general awareness of the various low cost home ownership products and make use of appropriate marketing techniques to achieve this.

HomeBuy agents are contracted to market and administer the open market HomeBuy programme, but not for the marketing of individual homes, which are purchased on the open market. For each open market HomeBuy completion, an allowance is paid to the HomeBuy agents, to cover administration and marketing costs. From April 2007, this allowance has been £3,300 per completion. The same completion fee is also funded by English Partnerships to HomeBuy agents for homes sold under the First Time Buyers Initiative.

There is no separate administration budget for new build HomeBuy: housing associations bidding for new build HomeBuy projects factor in these costs as part of their total scheme costs when bidding to the Housing Corporation for a proportion of the total costs to be funded by social housing grant.

Housing association and local authority landlords participating in *(a)* the pilot social HomeBuy scheme meet the costs of marketing and administration from the sale proceeds.

For new build HomeBuy and social HomeBuy, housing associations deduct an administrative allowance to cover their legal and administration costs from the sales receipt on completion of sale, or on the sale of further shares. Details of the administrative allowances are set out in the following table.

Property disposal deductible administrative allowances

	£
Sale of further shares (houses and flats)	449
Social HomeBuy initial sale (house)	701
Social HomeBuy initial sale (flat)	1,576

The administration costs incurred by English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation and Communities and Local Government for the HomeBuy and First Time Buyers Initiative form part of the overall costs for the policy and delivery of affordable housing.

Local Government: Consent Regimes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the consent regimes for local authorities that are overseen by the government offices for the regions. [182092][1]

Mr. Dhanda: The consent regimes for local authorities that are currently overseen by the government offices for the Regions are:

Listed Building Consents (Local Planning Authority's (LPA) own applications)

Conservation Area Consents

Less-than-best Price Disposals

Allotments Disposals

LPA Tree Preservation Order Consents

Whilst not strictly LPA consent cases, the Government Office network also discharges the respective Secretaries of State's statutory functions in respect of the following matters:

Private Listed Building Notifications

Redundant Churches

Redemption of Rent Charges

Crown Developments

EIAs

Tree Preservation Orders (the Planning Inspectorate will deal with these from 1 April 2008)

Definitive map appeals and directions:

Traffic Regulation Orders

Article 4 Directions

Notification of LPA opposed proposals by English Partnerships

Completion Notices

Modification Orders

Revocation Orders

Discontinuance Orders

1938 Green Belt Act

Road Signage

Cycle Track Orders

Road Reclassifications.

Non-domestic Rates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether transitional relief will be applied to the rates levied through *(a)* supplementary business rates and

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1.*[Official Report, 29 April 2008, Vol. 475, c. 3MC.]*

(b) business improvement districts (i) at and (ii) following the 2010 business rates revaluation. [182585]

John Healey: Although decisions have yet to be taken on many aspects of the transitional relief scheme for the 2010 revaluation, there are no plans to change the arrangement which excludes from the current transitional relief scheme amounts payable through BID levies. Also, 'Business rate supplements: a White Paper' makes clear that transitional relief will not be applied to supplements.

Parish Councils: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 553W, on parish councils: finance, what the estimated average precept is that will need to be levied by a parish council in London in the first 12 months after establishment. [182910]

John Healey: It will be for the relevant London borough, when carrying out a community governance review, to estimate the first precept to any new parish council. In subsequent years the precept is a matter for the individual parish councils.

Government have not made estimates of the precepts set by parish councils. Government expects parish councils to budget prudently and to take into account the views of local people on how their money should be spent.

Planning Permission: Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to planning inspectors on the account to be taken of flood risk in planning appeals in the last six months. [181110]

Caroline Flint: Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25, published in December 2006, sets out the Government's policy on development and flood risk. It aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process, to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas at highest risk.

Planning Inspectors are aware of the heightened importance of flood risk management and apply the policies in PPS25 and related Government documents to relevant appeal cases. The Inspectorate has measures in place to alert Inspectors to new information relating to development and flood risk.

Planning Permission: Opencast Mining

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to mineral planning guidance on opencast coal mining since 1997. [182596]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been a number of changes. The most significant is in paragraph 8 of Minerals Planning Guidance 3, which establishes a presumption against coal extraction unless a proposal can meet one of two tests. The tests are:

1. Is the proposal environmentally acceptable, or can it be made so by planning conditions or obligations?
2. If not, does it provide local or community benefits which clearly outweigh the likely impacts to justify the grant of planning permission?

Planning: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether under proposed changes to the Merton Rule in the new Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change, the developer would have to demonstrate that they could not achieve the 10 per cent. target on-site before the new proposed off-site rule applied; and what definitions her Department uses of off-site in these circumstances. [165247]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The new planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change will boost the use of local renewable and low carbon energy in new development. The PPS sets out our 'Merton-Plus' approach. This (like existing Merton rules) expects a council-wide target and, additionally, tailored targets for sites where there is greater potential for using decentralised energy to supply new development. These targets should be flexible enough to consider community schemes (for example, wind turbines or CHP schemes serving more than one site) as well as building specific technologies. When there are clear carbon savings to be had from local energy sources, they should not be subject to a requirement for on-site options to be tested before they can be considered.

Explanations of the terms used in the PPS are set out in its glossary. This makes it clear that decentralised energy is energy supplied from "local renewable and local low-carbon sources (i.e. on-site and near-site, but not remote off-site)".

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the additional infrastructure support funding announced on 5 December 2007 will be allocated to *(a)* designated new growth points and *(b)* growth areas. [173386]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: Out of the £732 million for the growth fund, to support the delivery of infrastructure in the growth areas and the growth points announced in the written ministerial statement of 4 December 2007, *Official Report, columns* 53-54WS, 224m has been allocated in 2008-09, with indicative awards of £336 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11. A further allocation of around £172 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be made once we have consulted the growth authorities and other stakeholders and reviewed the new approach to funding. A breakdown of the allocations to the growth areas and the growth points has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Simplification Plan

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has produced a simplification plan. [182569]

Mr. Dhanda: This Department first published a simplification plan in December 2006. A further update was published on 11 December 2007 and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/simplificationplan2007.

Tattooing: Licensing

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what account is taken of the competency of the practitioner in local authority licensing of the providers of tattoos and body piercing; [178635]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of local authority regimes for the licensing of tattooing or skin piercing premises, with particular regard to the revocation of licences held by businesses that have closed; [178637]

(3) how many licenses for tattooing or skin premises have been revoked by a local authority in each year between 2000 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [178639]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, gives local authorities (LAs) powers to require tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses in their area to register and observe byelaws on hygiene and cleanliness. It is an offence for such a business to trade without being registered with the LA or to breach local byelaws.

LAs in London generally use the London Local Authorities Act 1991 (private legislation) which provides for a licensing scheme for businesses providing special treatments such as tattooing and cosmetic piercing. It is an offence to trade without being licensed or to breach licence conditions.

LAs also have general enforcement powers under health and safety at work legislation. This allows LAs to use improvement and prohibition notices, and ultimately prosecute tattooing and piercing businesses, if appropriate. This would include where there are concerns about a practitioner's competency. Under the licensing regime that exists in London, LAs may refuse a licence on grounds relating to a person's competency.

Information on the local regulation of tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses by LAs is not collected centrally. However, we keep the legislation under review, taking account, for example, of any feedback from stakeholders such as LAs and their associations.

Thames Gateway

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* public authorities, *(b)* public corporations and *(c)* partnership bodies are involved in the Thames Gateway development. [182570]

Caroline Flint: The public and partnership bodies involved in the Thames Gateway are set out as follows.

Public authorities

Local authorities

London

London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
London Borough of Newham
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Havering

Essex

Thurrock Borough Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Basildon Council
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Rochford District Council
Essex County Council

Kent

Dartford Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Kent County Council
Medway Council
Swale Borough Council

Regional authorities

Greater London Authority

Regional assemblies

East of England Regional Assembly
South East England Regional Assembly

Government offices

Government Office for London
Government Office for the South East of England
Government Office for the East of England

Public corporations

No public corporations are involved in delivering the Thames Gateway

Partnership bodies

Local regeneration partnerships

London

Woolwich Regeneration Agency
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Invest Bexley

Essex

Basildon Renaissance
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Renaissance Southend

Kent

Medway Renaissance
Swale Forward
Kent Thameside

Sub-regional partnerships

Thames Gateway London Partnership
Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership

Regional development agencies

London Development Agency

South East England Development Agency

East of England Development Agency

Other public bodies

Environment Agency

Learning and Skills Council

CABE

English Partnerships

English Heritage

Housing Corporation

Natural England

Higher Education Funding Council for England

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local planning authorities will have over the selection and approval of eco-town development sites. [169412]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: Where a planning application for an eco-town is submitted, it will be determined in the normal way under the Planning Acts. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the application is determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. As set out in the eco-towns prospectus, there may be circumstances where use of the New Towns Act powers might be used.

In addition, before taking a final decision on the selection of an eco-town scheme for Government support, we will consult local authorities for the relevant area covered by the scheme.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes must be provided for in each eco-town bid. [179835]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1537W.

Veolia Environmental Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what private finance initiative contracts her Department and its predecessor authorised with *(a)* Veolia Environmental Services and *(b)* Onyx. [182557]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department and its predecessor have not authorised any private finance initiative contracts with Veolia Environmental Services or Onyx.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have had with *(a)* Veolia Environmental Services and *(b)* Onyx in the last 24 months. [182558]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the local authority eligibility criteria are for working neighbourhood funding. [182544]

John Healey: Three criteria were used to determine eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF):

> Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the employment domain; or
>
> Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall IMD; or
>
> Any local authority that is ranked among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate.

Authorities were only required to meet one of the above criteria to qualify.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities which were in receipt of neighbourhood renewal funding will not receive working neighbourhood funding. [182567]

John Healey: 21 authorities which received neighbourhood renewal funding from 2006-2008 have not qualified for working neighbourhoods fund. These authorities are listed:

Barnet

Brighton and Hove

Bristol

Coventry

Croydon

Derby

Dudley

Ealing

Enfield

Hammersmith and Fulham

Kirklees

Leeds

Lewisham

Mansfield

North Tyneside

Norwich

Penwith

Plymouth

Rotherham

Wakefield

Waltham Forest.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund: South-West Region

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority areas are eligible for the Working Neighbourhood Fund in the South West region. [182438]

John Healey: There were three criteria used to determine eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). These were:

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the Employment domain; or

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall IMD; or

Any local authority that is ranked among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate.

Local authorities were only required to meet one of the above criteria to qualify. One authority in the South West meets the criteria; West Somerset which qualifies on the basis of the third criteria.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the transfer of blue light accident and emergency from Burnley General to Blackburn Royal Infirmary on 1 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [181749]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. The East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, East Lancashire primary care trust and the North West Ambulance Service are continuing to monitor the effectiveness of the transfer throughout the implementation process.

Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRI scanners there are in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust; and how this level of provision compares to that in other NHS trust areas in Greater London. [179708]

Ann Keen: We are informed by Barking, Havering and Redbridge National Health Service Trust that they currently have three Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners, two at the Queen's Hospital, Romford and one at King George's Hospital, Ilford.

The Department does not collect information centrally on comparisons of the level of provision available both locally or nationally. It is for primary care trusts, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their equipment and funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health.

Benzodiazepines

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons benzodiazepines are not included in the treatment outcomes profile monitoring questionnaire. [178647]

Dawn Primarolo: The treatment outcomes profile (TOP), a treatment outcomes monitoring instrument is used at the start, during and after substance misuse treatment, and is reported through the national drug treatment monitoring system. TOP comprises of a series of questions, asked by the key worker and answered by the client about the nature and extent of the client's substance use, crime, health and social functioning, in order to measure outcomes in a meaningful way that is sensitive to change over time.

TOP went through a rigorous development process and all items on the TOP form had to meet stringent methodological and statistical criteria to be included on the final form. Drug treatment service users who took part in testing the TOP found it difficult to accurately and consistently remember and report the amount and frequency of their benzodiazepine use so the question did not validate and is no longer included. However, benzodiazepine use can be recorded on the TOP form as an "other problem substance" for clinical purposes and should always be included in comprehensive assessments and the resulting care plans.

The Department, along with the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse are involved in other work to ensure that benzodiazepine use among illegal or illicit drug misusers is addressed effectively in a clinical setting. Importantly, 'Drug Misuse and Dependence—UK guidelines on clinical management' (the 'Clinical Guidelines') gives guidance for clinicians on treating drug misusing patients who also may misuse benzodiazepines. The guidance is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Substancemisuse/index.htm

Breast Cancer: Screening

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage more women to accept their breast screening appointment invitations. [179609]

Ann Keen: As part of the promotion of breast awareness, women are encouraged to accept their breast screening invitations. However, like other screening tests, mammography is not perfect and all women invited to participate in the National Health Service Breast Screening Programme need to understand the potential benefits and harm in doing so and to be able to make an informed choice about whether or not they wish to participate.

To enable an informed choice to be made, all breast screening invitations include a national information leaflet, "Breast Screening: The Facts". Over two million copies of this leaflet are printed each year and it can be viewed at NHS Cancer Screening Programmes website at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/breastscreen/publications/nhsbsp-the-facts-english-2007.pdf

along with other related publications.

Language and access to acceptable and meaningful information can prevent some women from taking up their invitation for screening. This is why "Breast Screening: The Facts" has been translated into 18 languages.

We know that there are specific groups of women who are less likely to attend for screening, for example, women from some minority ethnic groups and women in inner-city areas and in December 2003, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes published "Inequalities of Access to Cancer Screening: A Literature Review" to address this. The recommendations in this review have been sent to all local screening programmes and a number of local actions have been put into place to combat inequalities.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the NHS Breast Screening Programme and there will be a number of event's across the country to mark the anniversary which, in part, will be used to educate and inform the public about breast screening and screening in general.

To assist the NHS Breast Screening Programme in raising awareness about the availability of breast cancer screening, NHS Cancer Screening Programmes issued a regional communications pack to all local breast screening programmes in 2004, which includes advice on raising the awareness of breast screening. The recently published Cancer Reform Strategy, which sets out the future direction of cancer services in England, noted the need for primary care trust commissioners to develop local targeted programmes to increase the uptake of breast screening invites.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women entitled to screening attended their appointment for breast cancer screening in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust. [181380]

Ann Keen: The following tables give coverage data for breast screening for each of the last three years by primary care trust (PCT).

Breast screening programme: coverage of women (less than 3 years since last test)[1] aged 53-64 by primary care organisation at 2003-04 to 2005-06

			2003-04		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	England		3,538,224	2,651,122	74.9
Q30	*North East SHA*		183,483	135,110	73.6
	5D7	Newcastle PCT	15,265	10,801	70.8
	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	14,546	11,025	75.8
	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	6,224	4,739	76.1
	5E1	North Tees PCT	12,538	8,929	71.2
	5J9	Darlington PCT	7,099	5,416	76.3
	5KF	Gateshead PCT	14,384	11,553	80.3
	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	10,468	8,422	80.5
	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	19,474	14,135	72.6
	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	8,778	4,046	46.1
	5ND	County Durham PCT	38,377	28,226	73.5
	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	10,585	6,658	62.9
	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	25,745	21,160	82.2
Q31	*North West SHA*		493,915	373,894	75.7
	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	9,443	7,059	74.8
	5F5	Salford PCT	14,494	10,596	73.1
	5F7	Stockport PCT	20,949	14,892	71.1
	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	23,428	18,374	78.4
	5HP	Blackpool PCT	11,024	8,287	75.2
	5HQ	Bolton PCT	19,172	14,958	78.0
	5J2	Warrington PCT	13,935	10,958	78.6
	5J4	Knowsley PCT	9,632	6,825	70.9
	5J5	Oldham PCT	15,544	9,532	61.3
	5JX	Bury PCT	13,346	10,691	80.1
	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	16,191	12,369	76.4
	5NE	Cumbria PCT	39,105	32,037	81.9
	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	26,606	21,604	81.2
	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	32,865	24,630	74.9

Breast screening programme: coverage of women (less than 3 years since last test)[1] aged 53-64 by primary care organisation at 2003-04 to 2005-06

			2003-04		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	26,527	20,187	76.1
	5NJ	Sefton PCT	20,460	14,833	72.5
	5NK	Wirral PCT	24,083	19,560	81.2
	5NL	Liverpool PCT	28,312	19,367	68.4
	5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	22,834	17,572	77.0
	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	18,710	15,012	80.2
	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	34,949	28,811	82.4
	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	13,875	10,543	76.0
	5NR	Trafford PCT	15,019	10,024	66.7
	5NT	Manchester PCT	23,412	15,173	64.8
Q32	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*		359,025	274,912	76.6
	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	11,847	9,445	79.7
	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	12,407	9,262	74.7
	5H8	Rotherham PCT	18,014	14,238	79.0
	5J6	Calderdale PCT	14,248	11,020	77.3
	5JE	Barnsley PCT	16,941	13,534	79.9
	5N1	Leeds PCT	46,686	33,841	72.5
	5N2	Kirklees PCT	26,496	20,546	77.5
	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	24,362	17,923	73.6
	5N4	Sheffield PCT	34,731	27,711	79.8
	5N5	Doncaster PCT	21,121	15,172	71.8
	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	59,837	49,682	83.0
	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	25,633	17,849	69.6
	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	17,197	12,554	73.0
	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	29,505	22,135	75.0
Q33	*East Midlands SHA*		309,113	246,408	79.7
	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	14,988	10,337	69.0
	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	8,433	6,099.0	72.3
	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	53,169	44,189	83.1
	5N7	Derby City PCT	17,969	14,748	82.1
	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	48,388	39,719	82.1
	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	56,833	43,660	76.8
	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	47,708	40,077	84.0
	5PC	Leicester City PCT	16,615	12,181	73.3
	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	45,010	35,398	78.6
Q34	*West Midlands SHA*		382,130	295,921	77.4
	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	13,877	11,616	83.7
	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	21,564	16,348	75.8
	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	23,521	18,530.0	79
	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	17,593	13,414	76.2
	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	20,055	15,461	77.1
	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	11,379	9,158	80.5
	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	15,060	10,380	68.9
	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	11,155	7,185	64.4
	5PE	Dudley PCT	23,013	17,558	76.3
	5PF	Sandwell PCT	19,632	14,437	73.5
	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	25,967	19,496	75.1

Breast screening programme: coverage of women (less than 3 years since last test)[1] aged 53-64 by primary care organisation at 2003-04 to 2005-06

			2003-04		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	16,322	12,902	79.0
	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	18,179	13,712	75.4
	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	46,029	35,493	77.1
	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	43,191	35,235	81.6
	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	39,437	32,437	82.3
	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	16,156	12,559	77.7
Q35	*East of England SHA*		406,249	319,732	78.7
	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	10,137	7,848	77.4
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	26,542	18,454	69.5
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	28,078	22,436	79.9
	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	37,147	29,098.0	78.3
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	36,249	27,552	76.0
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	10,066	8,070	80.2
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	40,168	31,939	79.5
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	57,239	46,080	80.5
	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	18,219	14,655	80.4
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	44,905	36,901	82.2
	5PV	West Essex PCT	18,902	14,890	78.8
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	23,847	19,182	80.4
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	26,730	21,836	81.7
	5PY	South West Essex PCT	28,021	20,791	74.2
Q36	*London SHA*		424,770	270,964	63.8
	5A4	Havering PCT	17,704	14,112	79.7
	5A5	Kingston PCT	9,861	6,929	70.3
	5A7	Bromley PCT	22,119	16,866	76.3
	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	12,717	8,734	68.7
	5A9	Barnet PCT	20,515	13,760	67.1
	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	15,042	9,696	64.5
	5C1	Enfield PCT	17,015	12,169	71.5
	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	8,506	5,970	70.2
	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	10,161	5,583	54.9
	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	7,671	4,205	54.8
	5C5	Newham PCT	11,960	6,181	51.7
	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	12,256	7,726	63.0
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,677	3,723	42.9
	5HX	Ealing PCT	18,291	10,440	57.1
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	13,249	7,465	56.3
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	16,096	8,996	55.9
	5K6	Harrow PCT	14,212	9,768	68.7
	5K7	Camden PCT	10,817	5,523	51.1
	5K8	Islington PCT	9,490	5,534	58.3
	5K9	Croydon PCT	20,670	13,764	66.6
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	10,014	5,130	51.2
	5LC	Westminster PCT	10,967	4,718	43.0
	5LD	Lambeth PCT	13,124	7,837	59.7
	5LE	Southwark PCT	11,353	7,014	61.8
	5LF	Lewisham PCT	12,926	8,353	64.6
	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	13,543	8,229	60.8

Breast screening programme: coverage of women (less than 3 years since last test)[1] *aged 53-64 by primary care organisation at 2003-04 to 2005-06*

			2003-04		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	12,035	7,753	64.4
	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	21,831	15,020	68.8
	5NA	Redbridge PCT	14,353	8,621	60.1
	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	12,739	9,391	73.7
	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	14,856	11,754	79.1
Q37	*South East Coast SHA*		313,740	236,513	75.4
	5L3	Medway PCT	18,381	13,361	72.7
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	14,952	11,580	77.4
	5P5	Surrey PCT	77,400	57,295	74.0
	5P6	West Sussex PCT	59,402	43,301	72.9
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	26,525	21,766	82.1
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	13,971	11,341	81.2
	5P9	West Kent PCT	48,797	38,188	78.3
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	54,312	39,681	73.1
Q38	*South Central SHA*		274,076	217,056	79.2
	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	13,839	11,082	80.1
	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	10,423	7,649	73.4
	5L1	Southampton City PCT	13,710	10,242	74.7
	5QC	Hampshire PCT	94,655	73,751	77.9
	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	35,841	30,051	83.8
	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	40,917	32,953	80.5
	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	29,653	23,656	79.8
	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	22,996	18,198	79.1
	5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	12,042	9,474	78.7
Q39	*South West SHA*		391,722	280,611	71.6
	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	17,055	10,982	64.4
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	17,546	13,565	77.3
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	12,705	7,529	59.3
	5K3	Swindon PCT	11,789	9,181	77.9
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	16,302	12,319	75.6
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	43,183	34,975	81.0
	5QJ	Bristol PCT	24,345	18,235	74.9
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	33,183	26,563	80.1
	5QL	Somerset PCT	41,112	33,296	81.0
	5QM	Dorset PCT	33,329	26,662	80.0
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	23,709	18,223	76.9
	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	45,376	27,884	61.5
	5QQ	Devon PCT	60,366	37,981	62.9
	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	11,722	3,216	27.4

			2004-05		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	England		3,574,534	2,697,665	75.5
Q30	*North East SHA*		185,454	141,025	76.0
	5D7	Newcastle PCT	14,896	11,093	74.5

				2004-05	
			Eligible population	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	14,976	11,331	75.7
	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	6,294	3,449	54.8
	5E1	North Tees PCT	12,737	10,205	80.1
	5J9	Darlington PCT	7,218	4,215	58.4
	5KF	Gateshead PCT	14,412	11,650	80.8
	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	10,535	8,520	80.9
	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	19,667	15,921	81.0
	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	8,847	6,114	69.1
	5ND	County Durham PCT	38,918	30,114	77.4
	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	10,624	8,250	77.6
	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	26,330	20,163	76.6
Q31	*North West SHA*		497,861	376,263	75.6
	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	9,600	6,753	70.3
	5F5	Salford PCT	14,433	9,761	67.6
	5F7	Stockport PCT	21,015	15,115	71.9
	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	23,464	16,668	71.0
	5HP	Blackpool PCT	10,846	7,645	70.5
	5HQ	Bolton PCT	19,291	14,835	76.9
	5J2	Warrington PCT	14,048	11,049	78.7
	5J4	Knowsley PCT	9,501	6,663	70.1
	5J5	Oldham PCT	15,686	10,975	70.0
	5JX	Bury PCT	13,511	10,757	79.6
	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	16,358	11,529	70.5
	5NE	Cumbria PCT	39,674	32,090	80.9
	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	26,801	21,299	79.5
	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	33,195	25,788	77.7
	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	26,863	20,632	76.8
	5NJ	Sefton PCT	20,798	15,722	75.6
	5NK	Wirral PCT	24,350	19,710	80.9
	5NL	Liverpool PCT	28,381	20,339	71.7
	5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	23,118	17,863	77.3
	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	18,819	15,367	81.7
	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	35,334	29,462	83.4
	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	14,064	10,434	74.2
	5NR	Trafford PCT	15,092	11,504	76.2
	5NT	Manchester PCT	23,619	14,303	60.6
Q32	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*		362,359	278,103	76.7
	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	11,880	8,200	69.0
	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	12,587	8,856	70.4
	5H8	Rotherham PCT	18,076	14,722	81.4
	5J6	Calderdale PCT	14,368	10,631	74.0
	5JE	Barnsley PCT	17,168	13,698	79.8
	5N1	Leeds PCT	46,851	31,849	68.0
	5N2	Kirklees PCT	26,989	20,731	76.8
	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	24,581	18,975	77.2
	5N4	Sheffield PCT	34,760	27,647	79.5
	5N5	Doncaster PCT	21,241	17,515	82.5
	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	60,636	50,578	83.4
	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	26,078	20,647	79.2

			2004-05		
			Eligible population	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	17,333	12,915	74.5
	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	29,811	21,139	70.9
Q33	*East Midlands SHA*		314,378	253,352	80.6
	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	15,063	11,174	74.2
	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	8,500	6,852	80.6
	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	54,027	44,409	82.2
	5N7	Derby City PCT	18,044	14,871	82.4
	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	48,920	38,746	79.2
	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	58,016	46,561	80.3
	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	48,794	40,137	82.3
	5PC	Leicester City PCT	16,884	12,860	76.2
	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	46,130	37,742	81.8
Q34	*West Midlands SHA*		385,779	300,696	77.9
	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	14,078	11,789	83.7
	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	21,946	16,064	73.2
	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	23,763	19,751	83.1
	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	17,439	13,215	75.8
	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	20,003	15,046	75.2
	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	11,560	9,016	78.0
	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	15,723	11,374	72.3
	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	10,627	7,112	66.9
	5PE	Dudley PCT	23,125	17,631	76.2
	5PF	Sandwell PCT	19,890	14,679	73.8
	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	26,048	19,095	73.3
	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	16,480	12,971	78.7
	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	18,205	13,888	76.3
	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	46,623	36,721	78.8
	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	43,863	36,692	83.7
	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	40,172	32,777	81.6
	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	16,234	12,875	79.3
Q35	*East of England SHA*		411,562	319,669	77.7
	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	10,127	7,473	73.8
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	26,734	19,072	71.3
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	28,672	23,004	80.2
	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	37,331	28,496	76.3
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	36,477	27,818	76.3
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	10,148	7,783	76.7
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	40,851	32,771	80.2
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	58,145	46,383	79.8
	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	18,545	14,983	80.8
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	45,969	37,903	82.5
	5PV	West Essex PCT	19,143	11,751	61.4
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	24,035	18,615	77.4
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	27,084	22,438	82.8
	5PY	South West Essex PCT	28,302	21,179	74.8
Q36	*London SHA*		426,185	273,910	64.3
	5A4	Havering PCT	17,784	14,073	79.1

			2004-05		
			Eligible population[1]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5A5	Kingston PCT	9,977	6,517	65.3
	5A7	Bromley PCT	22,246	16,653	74.9
	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	12,851	8,692	67.6
	5A9	Barnet PCT	20,902	13,660	65.4
	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	15,075	10,372	68.8
	5C1	Enfield PCT	16,992	11,272	66.3
	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	8,562	5,974	69.8
	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	9,964	5,132	51.5
	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	7,642	2,886	37.8
	5C5	Newham PCT	11,858	6,819	57.5
	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	12,953	7,872	60.8
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,637	5,026	58.2
	5HX	Ealing PCT	18,300	11,755	64.2
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	13,494	8,923	66.1
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	15,933	9,398	59.0
	5K6	Harrow PCT	14,369	9,504	66.1
	5K7	Camden PCT	10,736	6,094	56.8
	5K8	Islington PCT	9,476	5,515	58.2
	5K9	Croydon PCT	20,788	13,991	67.3
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	9,820	5,360	54.6
	5LC	Westminster PCT	11,062	5,674	51.3
	5LD	Lambeth PCT	13,011	7,454	57.3
	5LE	Southwark PCT	11,273	6,848	60.7
	5LF	Lewisham PCT	12,776	7,815	61.2
	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	13,500	8,216	60.9
	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	12,141	8,042	66.2
	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	22,057	14,903	67.6
	5NA	Redbridge PCT	14,392	9,124	63.4
	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	12,726	8,755	68.8
	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	14,888	11,591	77.9
Q37	*South East Coast SHA*		317,070	242,571	76.5
	5L3	Medway PCT	18,558	15,210	82.0
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	15,047	11,517	76.5
	5P5	Surrey PCT	77,918	60,313	77.4
	5P6	West Sussex PCT	60,014	44,745	74.6
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	26,902	22,111	82.2
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	14,116	11,383	80.6
	5P9	West Kent PCT	49,207	38,713	78.7
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	55,308	38,579	69.8
Q38	*South Central SHA*		277,173	221,312	79.8
	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	14,375	11,467	79.8
	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	10,402	7,334	70.5
	5L1	Southampton City PCT	13,840	10,271	74.2
	5QC	Hampshire PCT	95,798	75,428	78.7
	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	35,881	30,159	84.1
	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	41,504	33,839	81.5
	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	30,075	24,273	80.7
	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	23,056	18,506	80.3
	5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	12,242	10,035	82.0

			2004-05		
			Eligible population[2]	Number of women screened	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)
Q39	*South West SHA*		396,712	290,764	73.3
	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	17,201	12,116	70.4
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	17,747	14,158	79.8
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	12,810	9,867	77.0
	5K3	Swindon PCT	11,951	9,463	79.2
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	16,622	9,821	59.1
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	43,876	35,333	80.5
	5QJ	Bristol PCT	24,396	13,857	56.8
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	33,774	26,873	79.6
	5QL	Somerset PCT	42,069	34,464	81.9
	5QM	Dorset PCT	33,931	27,033	79.7
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	23,945	18,544	77.4
	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	45,271	33,266	73.5
	5QQ	Devon PCT	61,344	40,421	65.9
	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	11,775	5,548	47.1

			2005-06		
			Eligible population[2]	Number of women screened	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)
	England		3,633,181	2,756,716	75.9
Q30	*North East SHA*		188,399	147,306	78.2
	5D7	Newcastle PCT	15,187	11,119	73.2
	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	15,215	11,979	78.7
	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	6,467	4,500	69.6
	5E1	North Tees PCT	12,987	10,649	82.0
	5J9	Darlington PCT	7,378	5,742	77.8
	5KF	Gateshead PCT	14,523	11,700	80.6
	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	10,713	8,586	80.1
	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	19,957	15,983	80.1
	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	8,979	6,290	70.0
	5ND	County Durham PCT	39,449	30,953	78.5
	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	10,744	8,440	78.6
	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	26,800	21,365	79.7
Q31	*North West SHA*		503,667	373,302	74.1
	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	9,799	7,087	72.3
	5F5	Salford PCT	14,427	9,055	62.8
	5F7	Stockport PCT	21,223	15,743	74.2
	5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	23,791	17,478	73.5
	5HP	Blackpool PCT	10,800	8,143	75.4
	5HQ	Bolton PCT	19,496	14,590	74.8
	5J2	Warrington PCT	14,187	11,266	79.4
	5J4	Knowsley PCT	9,767	6,947	71.1
	5J5	Oldham PCT	15,787	10,268	65.0
	5JX	Bury PCT	13,652	10,795	79.1
	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	16,549	10,976	66.3
	5NE	Cumbria PCT	40,352	31,716	78.6

				2005-06	
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	27,121	17,739	65.4
	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	33,529	25,466	76.0
	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	27,316	21,021	77.0
	5NJ	Sefton PCT	20,958	15,847	75.6
	5NK	Wirral PCT	24,522	19,546	80.1
	5NL	Liverpool PCT	28,827	20,105	69.7
	5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	23,452	18,156	77.4
	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	18,977	15,597	82.2
	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	35,752	29,820	83.4
	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	14,390	10,442	72.6
	5NR	Trafford PCT	15,244	10,197	66.9
	5NT	Manchester PCT	23,749	15,202	64.0
Q32	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*		367,582	285,477	77.7
	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	12,004	8,514	70.9
	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	12,817	9,746	76.0
	5H8	Rotherham PCT	18,404	15,274	83.0
	5J6	Calderdale PCT	14,608	11,302	77.4
	5JE	Barnsley PCT	17,319	14,518	83.8
	5N1	Leeds PCT	47,461	33,646	70.9
	5N2	Kirklees PCT	27,443	20,000	72.9
	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	24,984	19,744	79.0
	5N4	Sheffield PCT	34,913	27,724	79.4
	5N5	Doncaster PCT	21,484	17,636	82.1
	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	61,599	51,173	83.1
	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	26,513	21,807	82.3
	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	17,600	11,384	64.7
	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	30,433	23,009	75.6
Q33	*East Midlands SHA*		320,704	261,389	81.5
	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	15,220	11,543	75.8
	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	8,716	7,412	85.0
	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	54,810	45,123	82.3
	5N7	Derby City PCT	18,258	15,075	82.6
	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	49,753	41,367	83.1
	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	58,978	46,109	78.2
	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	50,112	42,493	84.8
	5PC	Leicester City PCT	17,427	13,286	76.2
	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	47,430	38,981	82.2
Q34	*West Midlands SHA*		390,722	304,653	78.0
	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	14,370	11,919	82.9
	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	22,407	17,126	76.4
	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	24,163	18,892	78.2
	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	17,597	13,427	76.3
	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	20,135	15,319	76.1
	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	11,759	8,256	70.2
	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	15,845	11,736	74.1
	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	11,321	7,640	67.5
	5PE	Dudley PCT	23,189	18,478	79.7

				2005-06	
			Eligible population	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)*
	5PF	Sandwell PCT	20,072	14,898	74.2
	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	25,431	18,835	74.1
	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	16,690	13,404	80.3
	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	18,366	14,147	77.0
	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	47,245	36,857	78.0
	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	44,846	37,582	83.8
	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	40,777	33,110	81.2
	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	16,509	13,027	78.9
Q35	*East of England SHA*		419,809	321,241	76.5
	5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	10,314	7,734	75.0
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	27,090	19,779	73.0
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	29,267	22,735	77.7
	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	37,823	28,039	74.1
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	37,278	26,644	71.5
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	10,394	[illegible]96	80.8
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	41,930	33,782	80.6
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	59,159	48,027	81.2
	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	18,866	15,168	80.4
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	47,028	38,909	82.7
	5PV	West Essex PCT	19,561	8,286	42.4
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	24,464	19,643	80.3
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	27,819	23,044	82.8
	5PY	South West Essex PCT	28,815	21,055	73.1
Q36	*London SHA*		432,043	276,066	63.9
	5A4	Havering PCT	17,990	14,076	78.2
	5A5	Kingston PCT	10,246	7,283	71.1
	5A7	Bromley PCT	22,461	16,527	73.6
	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	12,898	8,866	68.7
	5A9	Barnet PCT	21,361	14,424	67.5
	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	15,348	10,371	67.6
	5C1	Enfield PCT	17,005	10,640	62.6
	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	8,594	6,017	70.0
	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	10,182	5,659	55.6
	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	7,722	3,966	51.4
	5C5	Newham PCT	11,990	6,942	57.9
	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	13,295	7,367	55.4
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,683	4,744	54.6
	5HX	Ealing PCT	18,673	11,821	63.3
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	13,695	8,085	59.0
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	16,175	10,242	63.3
	5K6	Harrow PCT	14,491	10,519	72.6
	5K7	Camden PCT	10,170	6,390	62.8
	5K8	Islington PCT	9,568	5,522	57.7
	5K9	Croydon PCT	20,899	13,161	63.0
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	9,898	4,961	50.1
	5LC	Westminster PCT	11,263	5,639	50.1
	5LD	Lambeth PCT	13,323	8,021	60.2
	5LE	Southwark PCT	11,548	7,168	62.1

			2005-06		
			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test)[1] (percentage)*
	5LF	Lewisham PCT	12,984	8,602	66.3
	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	13,966	8,478	60.7
	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	12,045	7,113	59.1
	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	22,509	15,385	68.4
	5NA	Redbridge PCT	14,896	8,138	54.6
	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	13,063	8,350	63.9
	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	15,102	11,589	76.7
Q37	*South East Coast SHA*		322,580	250,263	77.6
	5L3	Medway PCT	18,923	14,013	74.1
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	15,165	11,688	77.1
	5P5	Surrey PCT	79,062	61,763	78.1
	5P6	West Sussex PCT	61,255	45,908	74.9
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	27,520	22,488	81.7
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	14,329	11,591	80.9
	5P9	West Kent PCT	49,921	38,330	76.8
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	56,405	44,482	78.9
Q38	*South Central SHA*		282,724	225,029	79.6
	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	14,955	11,977	80.4
	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	10,524	7,473	71.0
	5L1	Southampton City PCT	14,051	10,210	72.7
	5QC	Hampshire PCT	97,666	75,493	77.3
	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	36,860	31,201	84.6
	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	42,192	34,617	82.0
	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	30,593	24,759	80.9
	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	23,481	19,037	81.1
	5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	12,402	10,262	82.7
Q39		*South West SHA*	404,952	311,990	77.0
	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	17,465	10,603	60.7
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	18,011	14,065	78.1
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	12,980	10,359	79.8
	5K3	Swindon PCT	12,280	9,806	79.9
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	16,917	13,810	81.6
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	44,798	36,242	80.9
	5QJ	Bristol PCT	24,749	12,984	52.5
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	34,602	28,137	81.3
	5QL	Somerset PCT	42,890	35,160	82.0
	5QM	Dorset PCT	34,614	27,682	80.0
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	24,275	18,844	77.6
	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	46,973	37,000	78.8
	5QQ	Devon PCT	62,483	47,769	76.5
	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	11,915	9,529	80.0

[1] The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous 3 years. Coverage of the screening programme is best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.

[2] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.

Note:

Data has been mapped to match the October 2006 PCT organisation structure.

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Source:

KC63, The Information Centre for health and Social care.

Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how an activity based system for funding screening services, as outlined in the Cancer Reform Strategy, will operate. [181379]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy committed the Department to explore moving to an activity based system for funding screening services. We are at the early stages of this exploration, and are focusing on how cancer screening can fit within the existing payment by results (PbR) system. PbR is a prospective payment system that pays hospitals according to the activity they do through the national tariff.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women attended their appointment for cervical cancer screening in each of the last three years, broken down by primary care trust. [181381]

Ann Keen: The following tables give coverage data for cervical screening for each of the last three years by primary care trust (PCT).

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the target age group (35-64)[1] by primary care organisation, 2004-05 to 2006-07

		2004-05		
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
	England	12,886.4	69.7	80.3
	North East SHA	634.4	73.8	81.7
5ND	County Durham PCT	127.4	75.0	81.6
5J9	Darlington PCT	24.7	75.1	81.8
5KF	Gateshead PCT	49.7	74.3	81.7
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	21.6	71.4	79.3
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	32.6	70.9	78.2
5D7	Newcastle PCT	62.8	74.1	80.9
5E1	North Tees PCT	45.4	73.5	80.7
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	52.4	75.8	82.8
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	77.4	80.8	86.3
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	34.0	74.0	80.8
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	36.5	72.6	80.4
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	69.9	64.0	80.6
	North West SHA	1,719.7	70.3	80.0
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	73.4	72.8	80.6
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	36.9	71.9	80.2
5HP	Blackpool PCT	35.3	62.8	76.7
5HQ	Bolton PCT	68.2	74.5	81.2
5JX	Bury PCT	46.2	76.5	82.9
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	113.4	77.6	84.2
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	111.2	71.2	81.2
5NE	Cumbria PCT	123.0	71.4	81.8
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	90.1	73.7	81.8
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	77.3	70.8	79.1
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	51.1	74.1	81.1
5J4	Knowsley PCT	38.0	65.1	75.3
5NL	Liverpool PCT	113.4	62.3	74.2
5NT	Manchester PCT	114.7	62.3	74.1
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	77.6	64.4	80.7
5J5	Oldham PCT	54.7	73.2	81.0
5F5	Salford PCT	53.5	66.1	78.8
5NJ	Sefton PCT	66.6	67.0	76.0
5F7	Stockport PCT	73.2	68.0	81.8
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	57.2	74.7	82.1
5NR	Trafford PCT	54.8	67.7	81.5
5J2	Warrington PCT	49.7	75.5	82.9
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	61.1	75.2	82.7
5NK	Wirral PCT	79.1	71.5	80.0

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the target age group (35-64)[1] by primary care organisation, 2004-05 to 2006-07

			2004-05	
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,250.4	71.0	81.8
5JE	Barnsley PCT	59.0	60.9	79.8
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	116.9	60.4	76.2
5J6	Calderdale PCT	49.5	70.2	83.4
5N5	Doncaster PCT	70.8	76.0	82.9
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	75.0	80.4	86.0
5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	66.4	74.7	81.3
5N2	Kirklees PCT	96.4	69.4	83.7
5N1	Leeds PCT	181.9	63.3	78.2
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	39.1	66.6	81.5
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	39.1	69.9	82.9
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	188.0	79.7	85.1
5H8	Rotherham PCT	60.7	64.1	80.4
5N4	Sheffield PCT	124.3	75.5	82.3
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	83.2	77.0	83.3
	East Midlands SHA	1,044.9	75.7	83.8
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	25.9	79.7	85.5
5N7	Derby City PCT	67.5	76.7	82.7
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	167.9	80.3	86.0
5PC	Leicester City PCT	75.5	66.0	76.5
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	158.1	74.0	84.3
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	164.5	69.5	82.8
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	158.5	76.0	82.5
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	67.5	76.9	83.0
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	159.5	81.6	87.1
	West Midlands SHA	1,330.5	71.8	80.3
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	101.4	70.6	78.7
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	77.1	63.6	77.2
5PE	Dudley PCT	75.7	74.2	81.2
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	62.6	65.0	72.8
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	41.2	75.4	82.2
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	50.4	78.0	84.1
5PF	Sandwell PCT	75.5	66.4	78.3
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	67.5	75.9	83.3
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	51.9	75.6	82.8
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	88.9	69.2	76.6
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	146.9	77.7	83.5
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	62.9	75.8	82.2
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	39.7	73.1	80.8
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	61.3	72.0	79.5
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	132.2	75.0	82.0
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	59.4	70.9	78.7
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	136.0	65.8	80.4
	East of England SHA	1,385.9	66.5	80.6
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	103.4	62.9	80.8
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	144.3	70.3	82.5
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	140.0	62.9	80.4
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	51.2	69.2	80.4
5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	46.8	60.1	78.1
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	88.3	66.3	81.1
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	168.4	67.5	81.7
5PW	North East Essex PCT	71.3	66.1	81.0
5PN	Peterborough PCT	38.2	65.4	79.7
5P1	South East Essex PCT	82.1	57.5	75.6

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the target age group (35-64)[1] by primary care organisation, 2004-05 to 2006-07

			2004-05	
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5PY	South West Essex PCT	100.4	60.0	76.3
5PT	Suffolk PCT	142.5	76.9	83.7
5PV	West Essex PCT	67.6	60.8	78.2
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	141.4	71.3	82.2
	London SHA	2,209.0	65.6	75.5
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	40.8	57.7	75.6
5A9	Barnet PCT	95.0	65.7	74.8
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	54.5	78.0	83.8
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	89.1	63.9	72.5
5A7	Bromley PCT	80.6	76.9	83.1
5K7	Camden PCT	68.8	64.8	74.0
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	70.5	61.7	70.6
5K9	Croydon PCT	92.3	61.6	77.7
5HX	Ealing PCT	96.4	66.9	74.7
5C1	Enfield PCT	74.3	60.1	74.5
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	66.5	67.2	74.3
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	60.0	59.3	68.5
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	75.2	60.9	73.7
5K6	Harrow PCT	57.3	70.1	77.7
5A4	Havering PCT	60.1	57.8	80.8
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	63.8	69.7	77.9
5HY	Hounslow PCT	68.6	66.7	74.5
5K8	Islington PCT	63.8	65.3	74.7
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	55.4	63.6	74.3
5A5	Kingston PCT	46.0	71.6	78.6
5LD	Lambeth PCT	98.4	66.0	74.3
5LF	Lewisham PCT	76.5	68.6	76.1
5C5	Newham PCT	73.3	66.8	75.0
5NA	Redbridge PCT	61.2	57.8	74.9
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	56.8	71.9	79.4
5LE	Southwark PCT	79.2	64.2	72.0
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	104.8	70.8	78.4
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	53.6	64.3	73.7
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	65.2	61.5	76.3
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	94.2	66.4	74.5
5LC	Westminster PCT	66.8	61.5	71.2
	South East Coast SHA	1,057.0	73.9	82.3
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	73.5	70.6	79.4
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weal[illegible] PCT	78.2	76.2	83.8
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	164.7	75.8	82.7
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	40.1	75.8	83.4
5L3	Medway PCT	67.5	71.6	82.1
5P5	Surrey PCT	276.9	76.2	82.3
5P9	West Kent PCT	165.4	76.2	83.8
5P6	West Sussex PCT	190.7	67.8	81.0
	South Central SHA	1,008.4	68.9	81.1
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	98.9	61.5	78.7
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	119.3	66.4	80.3
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	129.1	76.8	84.0
5QC	Hampshire PCT	313.2	66.8	82.1
5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	31.7	77.5	84.0
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	60.7	72.9	80.7
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	157.7	73.8	80.9
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	43.1	58.1	76.9

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the target age group (35-64)[1] by primary care organisation, 2004-05 to 2006-07

			2004-05	
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5L1	Southampton City PCT	54.7	66.3	78.0
	South West SHA	1,246.1	66.1	81.4
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	44.5	59.2	77.8
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	78.7	80.2	85.9
5QJ	Bristol PCT	107.1	55.3	74.2
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	127.3	66.5	81.7
5QQ	Devon PCT	172.1	65.2	81.9
5QM	Dorset PCT	88.6	79.7	86.0
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	141.5	66.7	82.8
5M8	North Somerset PCT	48.9	58.9	79.4
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	61.3	67.1	81.9
5QL	Somerset PCT	121.8	66.4	82.7
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	62.4	59.5	80.5
5K3	Swindon PCT	49.1	62.4	79.3
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	32.8	75.7	82.3
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	110.0	63.8	79.7

			2005-06	
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
	England	13,099.2	69.8	79.5
	North East SHA	638.4	73.7	80.9
5ND	County Durham PCT	127.7	75.1	81.0
5J9	Darlington PCT	25.0	75.1	80.7
5KF	Gateshead PCT	50.0	74.3	80.7
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	21.9	70.0	77.8
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	32.8	70.0	77.3
5D7	Newcastle PCT	63.3	73.6	80.0
5E1	North Tees PCT	45.9	73.1	79.5
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	52.9	76.5	82.1
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	78.2	80.1	85.8
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	34.2	73.3	79.9
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	36.6	72.6	79.3
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	70.0	64.9	80.6
	North West SHA	1,730.7	70.9	79.4
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	73.9	74.6	81.1
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	37.4	70.4	77.9
5HP	Blackpool PCT	35.4	61.5	75.3
5HQ	Bolton PCT	69.1	74.5	81.1
5JX	Bury PCT	46.6	76.4	82.4
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	113.6	77.7	83.6
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	111.5	71.3	80.2
5NE	Cumbria PCT	122.9	73.9	81.8
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	90.8	72.7	80.1
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	77.4	73.0	79.5
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	51.7	72.9	80.0
5J4	Knowsley PCT	38.3	66.5	74.8
5NL	Liverpool PCT	114.8	61.8	72.8
5NT	Manchester PCT	117.1	64.2	74.4
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	78.0	67.7	80.3
5J5	Oldham PCT	55.2	73.4	80.7
5F5	Salford PCT	54.3	66.6	78.3

		2005-06		
		Eligible population (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5NJ	Sefton PCT	66.8	67.0	74.6
5F7	Stockport PCT	73.0	70.1	81.5
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	57.6	73.8	81.1
5NR	Trafford PCT	55.8	68.9	80.9
5J2	Warrington PCT	49.7	77.0	82.8
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	60.8	75.7	81.8
5NK	Wirral PCT	79.3	70.9	78.3
	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,265.0	70.3	81.1
5JE	Barnsley PCT	59.6	62.0	80.1
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	119.6	62.0	76.1
5J6	Calderdale PCT	50.3	65.3	81.9
5N5	Doncaster PCT	71.6	75.5	82.2
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	75.6	79.8	85.1
5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	66.6	74.2	80.7
5N2	Kirklees PCT	97.9	65.3	82.1
5N1	Leeds PCT	184.6	63.2	78.2
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	39.1	67.7	80.9
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	39.5	66.3	82.0
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	190.1	79.0	84.3
5H8	Rotherham PCT	61.2	63.7	79.5
5N4	Sheffield PCT	125.3	76.3	81.7
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	84.2	75.6	82.2
	East Midlands SHA	1,064.8	75.4	83.1
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	26.1	79.2	84.8
5N7	Derby City PCT	69.0	76.0	81.8
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	170.0	80.0	85.2
5PC	Leicester City PCT	78.0	67.3	76.6
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	160.4	74.1	84.4
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	168.6	70.0	81.8
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	163.0	75.2	81.3
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	69.1	75.2	81.7
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	160.6	81.1	86.5
	West Midlands SHA	1,343.3	72.0	79.8
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	99.5	69.7	78.0
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	79.0	63.8	76.1
5PE	Dudley PCT	75.6	73.6	80.5
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	65.7	69.7	77.0
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	41.5	75.5	81.5
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	50.2	77.1	83.2
5PF	Sandwell PCT	77.1	66.4	77.9
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	68.4	76.6	82.5
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	52.6	75.1	81.9
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	89.4	69.7	77.2
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	147.9	77.4	82.9
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	63.8	74.3	8[illegible].8
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	40.0	73.6	80.3
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	61.8	71.0	78.4
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	133.9	74.0	80.9
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	59.9	70.1	77.2
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	137.0	68.6	79.7

		2005-06		
		Eligible population (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
	East of England SHA	1,409.9	67.2	80.2
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	105.3	65.8	80.0
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	147.9	70.6	82.2
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	141.8	64.1	80.4
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	51.6	69.9	80.0
5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	47.6	62.1	77.5
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	89.7	66.6	80.5
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	170.6	66.3	81.3
5PW	North East Essex PCT	72.7	68.7	81.3
5PN	Peterborough PCT	39.2	66.8	78.7
5P1	South East Essex PCT	82.9	61.5	76.0
5PY	South West Essex PCT	102.1	61.8	76.5
5PT	Suffolk PCT	144.8	76.2	82.4
5PV	West Essex PCT	69.0	65.2	79.5
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	144.6	68.2	80.5
	London SHA	2,281.0	65.1	74.2
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	42.2	59.0	73.5
5A9	Barnet PCT	97.9	64.5	73.0
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	56.0	76.4	82.1
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	92.1	63.5	71.0
5A7	Bromley PCT	82.7	75.6	81.5
5K7	Camden PCT	68.9	63.3	72.6
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	73.1	61.6	70.1
5K9	Croydon PCT	94.2	61.2	76.7
5HX	Ealing PCT	99.1	65.2	73.0
5C1	Enfield PCT	75.4	62.9	75.2
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	69.5	66.1	73.0
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	61.2	58.5	67.7
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	77.0	62.2	73.2
5K6	Harrow PCT	59.1	68.1	75.8
5A4	Havering PCT	61.0	61.5	78.8
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	66.8	67.0	74.5
5HY	Hounslow PCT	70.4	65.7	72.9
5K8	Islington PCT	65.6	64.4	73.5
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	56.5	61.4	72.5
5A5	Kingston PCT	47.4	70.8	77.5
5LD	Lambeth PCT	104.1	64.2	72.3
5LF	Lewisham PCT	79.6	67.4	74.9
5C5	Newham PCT	76.8	66.3	74.0
5NA	Redbridge PCT	64.4	62.1	75.2
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	55.7	71.2	78.3
5LE	Southwark PCT	84.2	63.2	70.7
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	108.9	69.2	76.4
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	57.9	61.7	70.8
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	66.2	64.3	77.0
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	99.5	65.1	72.9
5LC	Westminster PCT	67.6	62.4	71.7
	South East Coast SHA	1,074.9	74.0	81.5
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	74.8	69.5	76.5
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	79.5	75.3	81.9
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	168.3	75.3	81.6
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	40.9	75.7	81.5
5L3	Medway PCT	68.2	76.3	82.3
5P5	Surrey PCT	282.0	75.3	81.5
5P9	West Kent PCT	168.2	77.8	83.5

		2005-06		
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5P6	West Sussex PCT	193.1	67.8	81.2
	South Central SHA	1,026.9	68.8	79.9
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	102.1	62.6	76.6
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	121.7	67.6	79.8
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	130.4	75.7	82.8
5QC	Hampshire PCT	314.9	66.8	80.9
5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	32.2	76.0	82.6
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	62.3	72.7	79.6
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	159.6	72.8	79.8
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	47.5	60.9	76.2
5L1	Southampton City PCT	56.1	64.2	75.7
	South West SHA	1,264.3	67.3	81.2
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	44.7	61.6	78.7
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	80.0	78.7	84.6
5QJ	Bristol PCT	109.9	58.6	74.2
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	129.2	66.1	81.0
5QQ	Devon PCT	173.9	68.2	82.1
5QM	Dorset PCT	90.1	77.9	84.6
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	144.0	65.9	82.0
5M8	North Somerset PCT	49.8	63.4	80.4
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	62.0	67.8	81.3
5QL	Somerset PCT	123.6	67.9	82.8
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	62.8	64.9	81.9
5K3	Swindon PCT	50.2	62.5	78.9
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	33.0	75.9	81.9
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	111.2	65.1	81.0

		2006-07		
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
	England	13,192.9	69.4	79.2
	North East SHA	646.1	72.7	80.2
5ND	County Durham PCT	130.2	74.2	80.1
5J9	Darlington PCT	25.6	73.6	79.3
5KF	Gateshead PCT	51.2	73.0	79.3
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	22.0	69.4	76.9
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	34.7	68.6	76.2
5D7	Newcastle PCT	64.3	72.4	78.7
5E1	North Tees PCT	45.8	72.9	80.0
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	53.4	76.2	81.7
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	78.8	79.3	85.0
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	32.5	73.2	80.7
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	37.0	71.8	78.3
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	70.6	63.0	80.0
	North West SHA	1,739.5	70.4	79.0
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	74.2	74.1	80.7
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	37.7	69.3	77.3
5HP	Blackpool PCT	35.5	60.6	75.0
5HQ	Bolton PCT	69.5	73.7	80.6
5JX	Bury PCT	46.9	75.1	82.0
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	114.9	77.5	83.2

		2006-07		
		Eligible population¹ (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	111.1	70.3	79.6
5NE	Cumbria PCT	125.5	74.3	82.0
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	92.1	72.4	80.0
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	77.5	73.0	79.4
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	51.9	71.6	79.1
5J4	Knowsley PCT	38.3	66.2	74.5
5NL	Liverpool PCT	115.4	60.0	72.3
5NT	Manchester PCT	119.3	63.9	74.0
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	76.1	66.1	79.2
5J5	Oldham PCT	55.4	72.7	80.2
5F5	Salford PCT	54.8	65.6	77.9
5NJ	Sefton PCT	66.8	66.9	74.4
5F7	Stockport PCT	73.1	71.5	81.3
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	57.9	72.7	80.3
5NR	Trafford PCT	56.2	68.4	80.8
5J2	Warrington PCT	50.0	77.1	82.9
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	60.2	75.7	81.6
5NK	Wirral PCT	79.4	70.7	77.9
	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,281.0	69.0	80.2
5JE	Barnsley PCT	59.9	62.3	80.1
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	121.6	60.9	75.6
5J6	Calderdale PCT	50.9	63.9	81.5
5N5	Doncaster PCT	72.1	75.5	82.0
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	77.8	77.0	82.7
5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	68.5	71.8	78.1
5N2	Kirklees PCT	98.9	63.3	81.1
5N1	Leeds PCT	186.9	61.6	77.6
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	39.6	66.4	79.8
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	40.3	64.6	80.2
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	192.4	77.7	83.3
5H8	Rotherham PCT	61.4	62.5	79.2
5N4	Sheffield PCT	126.1	75.5	81.3
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	84.7	74.6	81.2
	East Midlands SHA	1,072.7	75.2	82.9
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	26.3	79.0	84.5
5N7	Derby City PCT	69.5	75.6	81.4
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	170.5	80.0	85.1
5PC	Leicester City PCT	79.0	66.9	76.6
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	161.2	73.9	84.4
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	170.2	69.8	81.8
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	165.4	75.2	81.1
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	69.5	74.7	81.5
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	161.1	80.9	86.5
	West Midlands SHA	1,350.8	71.2	79.3
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	100.4	69.1	77.4
5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	79.3	63.8	76.2
5PE	Dudley PCT	75.6	73.6	80.1
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	65.4	69.8	77.7
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	41.9	75.1	80.8
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	50.3	76.1	82.4
5PF	Sandwell PCT	77.8	65.7	77.5
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	68.7	76.5	82.3
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	53.0	74.8	81.5
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	90.8	68.3	76.0
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	148.5	76.6	82.4

		2006-07		
		Eligible population (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	64.3	73.2	80.0
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	40.2	73.3	80.0
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	61.9	70.6	78.0
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	134.9	73.9	80.5
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	60.2	70.6	77.4
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	137.7	65.2	78.8
	East of England SHA	1,419.8	67.2	79.9
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	105.8	68.4	81.0
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	147.2	69.9	81.7
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	142.2	63.8	80.2
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	52.0	70.0	80.1
5GC	Luton Teaching PCT	47.8	63.6	77.7
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	90.5	66.0	79.8
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	173.9	66.1	80.9
5PW	North East Essex PCT	73.4	68.4	81.1
5PN	Peterborough PCT	39.7	66.2	77.6
5P1	South East Essex PCT	83.3	62.5	75.9
5PY	South West Essex PCT	102.6	62.4	76.3
5PT	Suffolk PCT	146.2	75.5	81.6
5PV	West Essex PCT	69.8	65.5	79.4
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	145.2	66.9	79.9
	London SHA	2,294.0	65.0	74.0
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	42.7	60.3	74.1
5A9	Barnet PCT	99.1	63.1	71.7
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	55.8	76.7	82.5
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	91.8	64.0	71.6
5A7	Bromley PCT	82.6	72.7	81.7
5K7	Camden PCT	67.8	61.4	71.0
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	73.7	62.2	70.6
5K9	Croydon PCT	95.3	61.8	76.4
5HX	Ealing PCT	98.7	65.5	72.9
5C1	Enfield PCT	75.7	62.8	74.9
5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	69.9	65.7	73.0
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	60.9	58.8	67.4
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	77.5	61.5	72.7
5K6	Harrow PCT	59.1	67.9	75.8
5A4	Havering PCT	61.3	63.3	79.1
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	66.3	67.7	75.0
5HY	Hounslow PCT	70.8	65.3	72.5
5K8	Islington PCT	65.4	64.2	73.7
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	55.7	60.8	72.2
5A5	Kingston PCT	47.7	70.7	77.1
5LD	Lambeth PCT	105.2	63.8	71.7
5LF	Lewisham PCT	80.5	67.5	75.0
5C5	Newham PCT	77.9	66.9	74.4
5NA	Redbridge PCT	65.1	63.2	75.5
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	55.9	71.1	77.8
5LE	Southwark PCT	85.6	63.1	70.6
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	109.7	66.9	76.0
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	59.6	61.1	70.2
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	68.2	65.1	77.5
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	100.6	65.0	72.3
5LC	Westminster PCT	67.9	61.7	71.2
	South East Coast SHA	1,081.4	73.6	81.2
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	74.9	68.4	75.8

			2006-07	
		Eligible population[2] (thousand)	*Coverage (less than 3.5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*	*Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (percentage)*
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	80.1	74.3	80.9
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	169.9	74.7	81.3
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	41.2	75.3	81.4
5L3	Medway PCT	68.4	76.0	82.0
5P5	Surrey PCT	283.4	75.1	81.3
5P9	West Kent PCT	169.3	77.4	83.3
5P6	West Sussex PCT	194.2	67.7	81.0
	South Central SHA	1,035.1	68.2	79.4
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	103.3	62.2	75.6
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	122.9	66.8	79.4
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	130.6	75.2	82.6
5QC	Hampshire PCT	316.7	66.6	80.8
5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	32.4	75.0	81.8
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	62.8	72.4	79.4
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	161.7	71.3	78.6
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	47.9	60.6	75.5
5L1	Southampton City PCT	56.7	63.4	74.8
	South West SHA	1,272.5	67.3	81.0
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	44.7	62.3	78.8
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	81.1	77.9	83.9
5QJ	Bristol PCT	110.5	58.8	74.0
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	129.9	66.9	80.7
5QQ	Devon PCT	175.4	68.1	82.1
5QM	Dorset PCT	90.6	76.8	83.9
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	144.9	66.3	82.1
5M8	North Somerset PCT	50.2	63.8	80.3
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	62.3	67.8	81.2
5QL	Somerset PCT	124.3	67.9	82.6
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	62.7	65.2	82.0
5K3	Swindon PCT	50.9	63.0	77.9
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	33.2	75.3	81.3
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	111.7	64.5	80.9

[1] National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every 3 or 5 years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every 3 years, those aged 50 to 64 every 5 years).

[2] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.

Notes:

Data prior to 2006-07 has been mapped to match the October 2006 PCT organisation structure and some SHA totals (in 2005-06) are therefore different to those previously published.

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Source:

KC53 Parts A2 and A3

Chlamydia: Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to address the difference in numbers of men and numbers of women being screened for chlamydia. [182854]

Dawn Primarolo: Since the launch of the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) in 2003, it has been a requirement to screen both young men and women for chlamydia within the programme. This is one of the only national chlamydia screening programmes in the world to do so.

The number of screens in men has risen year on year. In 2006-07 the number of screens undertaken in men was 21.1 per cent.

It was recognised that more must be done to increase screening volumes in men and in November 2007, the NCSP launched a strategy 'Men too', to outline national commitments and local action to engage more men to accept chlamydia screening. The aims of the strategy are to:

raise awareness of the importance of screening men, both for their own sexual and reproductive health and to contribute to preventing reproductive morbidity in women;

engage national health service organisations locally to ensure equitable access to chlamydia screening for both men and women remains a priority; and

develop best practice in providing chlamydia screening for men.

A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.chlamydiascreening.nhs.uk/ps/assets/pdfs/NCSPMens_strat.pdf

The NCSP have been working with various stakeholders, including the Men's Health Forum, to implement commitments in this strategy. The programme of work, to be undertaken by November 2008, includes the development of a toolkit of resources to assist local NHS organisation with engaging men in screening.

Clostridium: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's screening programme for clostridium difficile on admission to hospital will begin; and what budgetary provision he has made for the programme in each financial year to 2010-11. [178031]

Ann Keen: We are introducing universal screening for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* for all elective patients by March 2009 and for all emergency patients as soon as possible over the next three years, supported by funding of £130 million per year by 2010-11. This will reduce the likelihood of a patient developing a clinical infection or passing it on to others in hospital who may be vulnerable.

We have considered whether universal screening of patients for *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) is the best way forward for the national health service. However, the current clinical evidence does not suggest that universal screening would be clinically, or cost, effective as universal screening would not identify the majority of patients who might be carrying *C. difficile* bacteria, and patients without symptoms are not considered to present an increased risk of infecting others. This is why we are targeting high risk patients for *C. difficile* screening. All over 65s in hospital with diarrhoea already should be screened for *C. difficile* as set out in current guidance. This will ensure the infection is identified quickly and appropriate measures are taken to treat the patient and minimise infection of other patients.

The measures for tackling healthcare associated infections such as *C. difficile* are set out in Health Protection Agency guidance, the "Saving Lives" programme and "Clean, safe care" strategy. Additional investment of £270 million funding per year by 2010-11 has been identified in the comprehensive spending review to support infection control and cleanliness in the NHS.

We will keep the clinical evidence for further *C. difficile* screening under review and will act quickly in response to new and emerging evidence.

Dental Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental surgeries in England closed permanently in each of the last 10 years. [180388]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the adult population saw an NHS dentist in each strategic health authority area in the 24 month period preceding 31 March 2001. [180420]

Ann Keen: Unique patients seen in a 24-month period only replaced registration as a measure of access to national health service dentistry in April 2006. Information cannot therefore be provided in the form requested.

Information on the number of adult patients registered with an NHS dentist as a proportion of the adult population at strategic health authority (SHA) level in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2000 are available in the following table. Each registration during this period lasted 15 months.

The proportion of adult patients registered with an NHS dentist is available as at 31 March 2001 to 2006 in the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England 31 March 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Proportion of the adult population registered with a dentist, by SHA area, England, as at 31 March 1997-2000

Percentage

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
England	52.9	49.8	45.6	45.3
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	53.8	49.9	47.5	47.8
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	52.9	49.1	44.8	44.7
Essex SHA	51.0	47.2	44.4	45.1
North West London SHA	53.7	49.9	43.3	41.9
North Central London SHA	50.9	47.6	42.0	40.5
North East London SHA	[illegible]	44.8	38.0	37.3
South East London SHA	47.9	45.0	40.2	38.5
South West London SHA	48.0	44.4	37.0	37.2
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	58.4	55.4	51.7	52.5
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	59.7	57.9	53.8	54.5
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire SHA	52.5	50.8	48.1	47.5
West Yorkshire SHA	59.6	58.1	54.0	52.3
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	52.0	50.4	47.8	47.6
Greater Manchester SHA	60.5	57.2	52.4	52.0
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	60.1	57.0	52.5	52.4
Thames Valley SHA	37.8	34.7	31.2	31.8
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	52.6	49.1	44.4	43.1
Kent and Medway SHA	41.8	40.1	37.6	37.9
Surrey and Sussex SHA	50.5	47.1	42.6	42.0

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Proportion of the adult population registered with a dentist, by SHA area, England, as at 31 March 1997-2000

				Percentage
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	48.5	45.1	40.0	39.8
South West Peninsula SHA	51.7	47.2	42.6	42.5
Dorset and Somerset SHA	56.2	52.7	49.4	48.8
South Yorkshire SHA	60.2	58.7	55.4	54.0
Trent SHA	55.1	53.6	50.6	51.0
Leics, Northants and Rutland SHA	55.4	53.0	49.2	48.7
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	47.5	43.2	39.5	39.0
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	55.5	51.9	47.6	47.3
West Midlands South SHA	54.2	50.1	45.6	45.5

Note:

1. SHA boundaries are as at 31 March 2006.

Sources: The Information Centre for health and social care, NHS Business Services Authority

Dental Services: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Colchester constituency and *(b)* Essex are awaiting registration with an NHS dentist; and if he will make a statement. [180367]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Further information may be available from the chair of North East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT), which contains Colchester constituency, and Mid Essex PCT, South East Essex PCT, South West Essex PCT and West Essex PCT, which together with North East Essex PCT commission dental services to the county of Essex.

Dental Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Staffordshire are awaiting registration with an NHS dentist; and if he will make a statement. [179494]

Ann Keen: The information is not held centrally by the Department.

Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to primary care trusts from 1 April 2008.

Dentistry: Manpower

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on dentistry: manpower, how many orthodontists were available to the acute health sector in England in each year from 2001. [181273]

Ann Keen: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Number of orthodontists (and orthodontic consultants) working in hospital and community health services, England—at 30 September each year

		Number (headcount)
	Orthodontists	*Of which: Consultant*
2001	506	154
2002	508	161
2003	522	178
2004	521	180
2005	552	206
2006	544	189

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Dentistry: Pensions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what pension entitlements are provided to NHS *(a)* dentists and *(b)* dental nurses. [180028]

Ann Keen: Dentist performers working in independent practices have access to practitioner benefits under the national health service pension scheme. These are calculated on a career average re-valued earnings basis of 1.4 per cent. of their total pensionable pay with a fixed lump sum of 4.2 per cent. of total pensionable pay. Dental nurses employed by independent practices are not entitled to membership of the NHS pension scheme.

Salaried dentists and dental nurses directly employed by NHS trusts or primary care trusts qualify for benefits calculated on the best year of the last three years pensionable pay. This provides a pension based on 1/80 of their salary for each year of service with a fixed lump sum of three times the pension.

All such members have a normal pension age of 60.

Diabetes: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had a diagnosis of diabetes in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* Essex (i) in the latest period for which figures are available and (ii) in 1997. [179653]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The quality and outcomes framework (QOF) part of the general practitioner (GP) contract requires practices to record the number of patients who have been diagnosed with diabetes. Only patients aged 17 and over are included, as patients younger than that are considered to need specialist care that would not be provided by a GP. Therefore, all figures given underestimate the number of diabetics. Furthermore, data are not available for Romford, Greater London or Essex as they are not national health service organisations. Data are not available for 1997 as the GP contract was only introduced in the financial year 2004-05. However:

the closest NHS structure is Havering primary care trust (PCT), which includes Romford. In 2006-07 there were 9,281 patients on the diabetes register in practices in Havering;

the NHS organisation closest to Greater London is London strategic health authority (SHA). In 2006-07 there were 300,567 patients on the diabetes register; and

similarly, Essex is not a NHS organisation since the re-structuring of SHAs in October 2006. For the five PCTs in

Essex (Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex) there were 61,348 patients on the diabetes register in these areas in 2006-07.

Coverage of QOF patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.

Elderly

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pilot projects there are of individual budgets for older people. [180435]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Of the 13 individual budget pilot sites in England, eight sites have included older people.

General Practitioners: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold an inquiry into all circumstances relating to the building of the Bluebell Surgery at Highwoods, Colchester to establish *(a)* the reasons for the time taken and *(b)* who is responsible; what additional costs have been incurred by the national health service as a result of the time taken; and when he expects the surgery and associated Bluebell Centre facilities to open. [182785]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts (PCTs) have management responsibility for the delivery of primary medical care; including issues around existing practice premises and the development of any new practice premises. The issues the hon. Member raises are therefore local matters for North East Essex Primary Care Trust.

General Practitioners: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are practising in Tamworth constituency. [179388]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. Data are held on the numbers of general practitioners (GPs) practicing within primary care trust (PCT) areas. Tamworth constituency falls within South Staffordshire PCT area. As at 30 September 2006, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 343 GPs practicing within South Staffordshire PCT. This figure excludes retainers and registrars.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust: Palliative Care

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money his Department has provided to Gloucestershire primary care trust for palliative care in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the projected amounts for forthcoming financial years are; how much of these amounts are ring-fenced in each case; and if he will make a statement. [183497]

Ann Keen: In 2003-04 Ministers set up a central budget, lasting for three years, of £50 million per annum for specialist palliative care. The budget was allocated pro rata to the cancer networks throughout the country to develop local services. Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) was part of the Three Counties Cancer Network which received £928,000 per annum between 2003-04 and 2005-06. The £50 million was made recurrent in PCT baseline allocations from 2006-07.

PCTs are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to meet the health care needs of their local populations and the Department does not have figures for individual PCT expenditure on palliative care.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department intends to issue guidance on the duty for primary care trusts and local authorities to undertake a joint strategic needs assessment. [174771]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was released by the Department on 13 December 2007 and can be found on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081097

A copy has been placed in the Library.

JSNA will develop and improve over time. The Department has commissioned Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory (Y and HPHO), which has a specialist role to support commissioning, to lead this process. Further developments e.g. of the JSNA 'minimum dataset' will be announced on the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory website at:

www.yhpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=1299

A draft copy has been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish new good practice guidelines on care planning, including support for self care; whether his Department intends to consult on these guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [183563]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department plans to publish a framework on personalised and integrated care planning in the spring of 2008, which includes support for self care as an integral part of the process. The framework has been developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders from the national health service, social care, the third sector and patient and carers representative groups.

Healthy Living Centres

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the healthy living centres established as part of the New Opportunities Fund Healthy Living Centres programme remain in operation, broken down by region. [181346]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has no direct relationship with Healthy Living Centres in England and does not collect data from them.

Healthy Living Centres are funded by the Big Lottery Fund (formerly the New Opportunities Fund).

Hearing Aids: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* assessed for and *(b)* provided with a hearing aid in each London primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available. [179330]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. However, the Department will collect referral-to-treatment data on direct access audiology—including the fitting of hearing aids—for the first time from April 2008. The Department continues to work with the national health service to improve audiology services. A national audiology framework was published in March 2007 and the Department is working directly with the most challenged organisations.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent inappropriate discharges of patients into the community by *(a)* trust and *(b)* foundation hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [180346]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The decision to discharge a patient is a medical one, made by clinicians. The health and social care needs of patients are assessed as part of the hospital discharge process to ensure that the patients care needs are met. On 1 October 2007 the national health service implemented the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care which contains guidance on assessing the care needs of patients.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints his Department received on mixed-sex accommodation in hospitals in each of the last 12 months. [180858]

Ann Keen: During 2007 the Department received a total of 36 complaints related to mixed sex accommodation, through the central correspondence system. The monthly breakdown is shown in the table.

The Department does not, as a rule, investigate individual complaints; rather it advises correspondents to follow the national health service complaints procedure. This directs complainants to local organisations to register and pursue the complaints.

NHS estates/mixed sex wards—monthly stats

	Number
January 2007	6
February 2007	4
March 2007	4
April 2007	3
May 2007	4
June 2007	0
July 2007	4
August 2007	2
September 2007	2
October 2007	5
November 2007	1
December 2007	1
Total	36

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the cleanliness of hospitals contracted to South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust. [179769]

Ann Keen: The national health service is assessed by the Healthcare Commission against core and developmental standards within Standards for Better Health. In respect of cleanliness, South Staffordshire primary care trust rated itself as compliant against core standard 21, which states:

> "Healthcare services are provided in environments which promote effective care and optimise health outcomes by being well designed and well maintained with cleanliness levels in clinical and non-clinical areas that meet the national specifications for clean NHS premises."

The Healthcare Commission also conducts the national patient surveys, which ask a variety of questions regarding cleanliness. The patient survey results are used as part of the evidence of compliance with the standards.

In addition, the National Patient Safety Agency conducts an annual patient environment action team (PEAT) inspection of all hospitals of 10 or more beds. This is a self-assessment, which includes cleanliness among other patient environment issues. The score generated is then banded into either: unacceptable, poor, acceptable, good or excellent. This report is available in full on the internet at www.npsa.nhs.uk/peat

The following table identifies those hospitals that contract with South Staffordshire PCT, their assessment of compliance against core standard 21 and their PEAT score. Compliance with core standard 21 is taken at trust level and the PEAT score at individual site level.

Name of hospital	*Core standard 21*	*PEAT environment rating*
Samuel Johnson Community Hospital	Compliant as South Staffordshire PCT	Good
Sir Robert Peel Hospital	Compliant as South Staffordshire PCT	Good
Cannock Chase	Compliant as Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals	Good
St. George's Hospital	Compliant as South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	Good
Queens Hospital Burton	Compliant as Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	Good
Staffordshire General Hospital	Compliant as Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals	Good

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measurements will be used to assess the effectiveness of the deep cleaning of hospitals in England. [181809]

Ann Keen: As set out in the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, following completion of the deep clean of the national health service on 31 March 2008, the Department will work with strategic health authorities (SHAs) to draw up examples of where a deep clean has had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and experience and will share these across the NHS.

SHAs will take the lead on evaluation locally as the impact of each trust's programme will be different and no single measurement method will pick up all the benefits, particularly as trusts may be implementing a range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle healthcare associated infections.

Improvements to patient experience and environment may be measurable through:

Patient Environment Action Team scores;

scores on national specifications for cleanliness;

compliance with the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections;

compliance with the Department's national core standards;

Healthcare Commission in-patient survey scores; and

infection rates.

Hospitals: Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on hospitals in West Suffolk. [182295]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have received the report and its recommendations. These are currently under consideration and I will be responding shortly.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on the routine screening of NHS staff for *(a)* MRSA infection and *(b)* clostridium difficile; [181074]

(2) how many cases of *(a)* MRSA infection and *(b)* clostridium difficile infection have been detected in staff working in the NHS in each of the last three years. [181075]

Ann Keen: Departmental guidance does not recommend routine screening of health care staff for either of these infections. Expert advice is that routine screening of staff is not indicated, and therefore not recommended but may be used to help control or investigate an outbreak.

In terms of the number of cases of infections in staff, I refer the hon. Member for North Norfolk to the reply I gave him on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1450W.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospitals in the Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust area there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex; and if he will make a statement. [180783]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes for alcohol related emergency admissions to Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust[1] in each year since 1997-98, broken down by age and sex—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

		Ages				*Unknown*			
		Under 18		*18 and over*		*Age*		*Sex*	
	Description	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Male*	*Female*
2006-07	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	53	72	1,396	539	0	0	0	0
2005-06	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	64	69	1,430	574	0	0	0	0
2004-05	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	49	61	1,156	420	0	0	*	0
2003-04	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	50	77	938	333	0	0	*	0
2002-03	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	49	56	885	347	0	0	0	*
2001-02	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	46	61	759	257	0	0	0	0

Count of finished admission episodes for alcohol related emergency admissions to Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust[1] in each year since 1997-98, broken down by age and sex—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

		Ages				Unknown			
		Under 18		18 and over		Age		Sex	
	Description	Male	Female	Male	Female	Under 18	18 and over	Male	Female
2000-01	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	43	35	782	303	0	*	0	0
1999-2000	Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust	61	56	948	282	0	0	0	0
1999-98	Royal Hull Hospital NHS Trust	55	40	871	536	0	0	0	0
	East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	26	12	0	0	0	0
1997-98	Royal Hull Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	746	316
	East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	12	7	0	0	0	0

* = For reasons of confidentiality numbers between one and five have been suppressed and shown as '*'.

[1] 0n 1 October 1999 Royal Hull hospital NHS trust and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust merged to form the Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust

Notes:

1. Data quality:

Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

2. Finished admission episodes:

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Admission method codes used:

21 = Emergency: via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)
23 = Emergency: via bed bureau, including the central bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider

3. Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. Low numbers:

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).

5. All diagnoses count of mentions:

These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.

Diagnosis codes used:

F10	Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70	Alcoholic liver disease
T51	Toxic effect of Alcohol

6. Ungrossed Data:

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social—the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", sets out a clear path to minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

The comprehensive spending review announced a Home Office Public Service Agreement target to reduce alcohol harm. It includes a new national indicator to measure change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-attributable conditions—the first ever national commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol harms, which will operate from April 2008. In addition, the Department and Home Office jointly will launch a much expanded, £10 million public health and education campaign on alcohol in 2008, to raise general awareness of health risks and challenge tolerance of drunkenness.

Junior Doctors

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly trained junior doctors have been employed in the Peterborough and Stamford

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the last 12 months. [180417]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. There was one doctor in their first year of the foundation programme (also known as the position of house officer, which is currently being phased out) at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust as at 30 September 2006. This compares with 17 doctors that were still in training at the foundation trust.

The numbers of doctors that the NHS requires to be recruited each year is a matter for determination by local NHS organisations, as they are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community.

Learning Disability

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will define the range of conditions covered by the term learning difficulties as used in the Valuing People Now document; and if he will make a statement; [183575]

(2) what plans he has to consult disabled people with no ability to live independently or to work on the proposals in the Valuing People Now initiative. [183576]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 'Valuing People Now, from Progress to Transformation' uses the definition of learning disability Valuing People (2001) as including the presence of:

> a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with;
>
> a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning); and
>
> which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development.

Learning disability does not include all those who have a specific "learning difficulty", which is more broadly defined in education legislation. 'Valuing People Now' includes people with autism who also have a learning disability.

The aspiration of 'Valuing People Now' is to include everyone, starting from the position that we can move towards independent living, with the right support, for even those with the most complex needs. There are many examples of this, led by families who want the best for their sons and daughters.

The consultation process is being taken forward in a way that is accessible for people who do not use words and for those who have complex needs. The consultation is also involving the people who work with them; family members and close carers who understand their best interests.

Lighting: Health Hazards

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of whether energy efficient light bulbs cause migraines. [178861]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the risk of migraines from exposure to energy efficient light bulbs.

Lipid Modification

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to publish new guidance on lipid modification. [181464]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to publish new guidance on lipid modification but the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing a clinical guideline on lipid modification entitled "Cardiovascular risk assessment: the modification of blood lipids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease". We understand that NICE expects to publish final guidance to the national health service this year. Further information can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11628

Lorazepam

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many companies are licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to manufacture or sell the drug Lorazepam or Ativan. [183073]

Dawn Primarolo: United Kingdom marketing authorisations for Lorazepam or Ativan have been granted to eight companies.

Maternity Matters Strategy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the early adopter sites under the Maternity Matters strategy are. [182338]

Ann Keen: There are 11 early adopter sites. They will be hosted by the following national health service organisations:

Newham primary care trust;
King's College hospital NHS Foundation Trust/Guy's and St. Thomas Foundation Trust/Southwark primary care trust;
Milton Keynes primary care trust;
East Lancashire hospitals NHS Trust;
South Central strategic health authority maternity network;
East Sussex hospital NHS Trust;
Bournemouth and Poole primary care trust
Gloucestershire primary care trust, in partnership with Gloucestershire hospital Foundation Trust and Gloucestershire Partnership Foundation Trust;
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust; and
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Foundation Trust and Doncaster primary care trust.

Further information on the early adopter sites can be found at:

www.cypf.csip.org.uk/maternity/maternity/early-adopter-sites.html

Maternity Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Healthcare Commission to publish the report of its review of maternity services. [180670]

Ann Keen: We understand that the Healthcare Commission will be publishing the outcome of the review of maternity services on their website www.healthcarecommission.org.uk on 25 January.

MRSA: Death

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients died as a result of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* C. difficile in each year since 1997. [183141]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many patients died as a result of (a) MRSA and (b) C. difficile in each year since 1997. (183141)

The table below provides data on the number of death certificates on which MRSA and Clostridium difficile were mentioned, from 1997 to 2005, the latest year for which figures are available.

Table 1: Number of death certificates where (a) methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] and (b) Clostridium difficile[2] was mentioned, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[3, 4]

	(a) MRSA	*(b) Clostridium difficile*
1997[3]	389	[4]n/a
1998	412	[4]n/a
1999	487	975
2000	669	[4]n/a
2001	734	1,241
2002	800	1,428
2003	955	1,778
2004	1,168	2,247
2005	1,629	3,807

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993 to 2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2001 to 2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.

[3] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

[4] Deaths involving Clostridium difficile can only be identified using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). This has been used by ONS for coding mortality from 2001 onwards and in 1999 for a bridge coding study. Data are therefore not available for 1997, 1998 and 2000 when the Ninth Revision of the ICD was in use.

MRSA: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile there are at (i) Barnet hospital, (ii) Royal Free hospital and (iii) Northwick Park; how many there were in 2006-07; and what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of these and other hospital-acquired infections in each hospital. [178173]

Ann Keen: The number of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia reports and of *clostridium difficile* reports during 2006-07, for the hospitals concerned, are set out in the following table[1].

[1] Data are provisional and subject to corrections that would be incorporated in future publications by the Health Protection Agency on its website: www.hpa.org.uk.

	MRSA bacteraemia reports: April 2006 to March 2007	*C. difficile reports for patients aged >65 years: April 2006 to March 2007[1]*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	62	751
The Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust	[2]75	133
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	51	273

[1] Mandatory surveillance of C. difficile began in January 2004 Prior to availability of quarterly data from January 2006, (first published in January 2007), they have been published only by calendar year. The data used in this answer are derived by aggregating quarterly data, to calculate the total for the financial year 2006-07.

[2] These data include one or more cases that have been dually reported, or accepted as extenuating circumstances.

The steps being taken to reduce the incidents of health care associated infections are summarised in the written ministerial statement of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS about a new comprehensive strategy, "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing infections and saving lives" to tackle health care associated infections and improve cleanliness in the national health service.

The strategy draws together recent initiatives and details new areas where the NHS should invest Government funding of £270 million per year by 2010-11. It also sets out where there are new national expectations and requirements, for example about the new national target for C. difficile and the requirements for the deep cleaning every hospital by March 2008. It also outlines areas, such as investment in infection control nurses, pharmacists and isolation nurses, that NHS organisations should consider when developing their local plans.

Copies of both the written ministerial statement and the strategy, "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing infections and saving lives", are available in the Library.

NHS Chiropody Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of NHS chiropody services for pensioners in Colchester constituency. [180365]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, outlined in the national service frameworks, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of chiropody.

NHS: Complaints

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about care in the national health service are under investigation by the Health Service Commissioner; and what the average length of time between receipt of a complaint and publication of a decision on it has been in the last 12 months. [180165]

Ann Keen: Information on numbers of national health service complaints processed at the third stage of the NHS Complaints Procedure is held by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and is not collected by the Department nor held centrally. The information can be obtained by request to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman direct at:

www.ombudsman.org.uk

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescribing advisers were employed in the NHS in England in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [182892]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available. The National Prescribing Centre (NPC) maintains a database of prescribing advisers who have chosen to register with that organisation. We understand that there were 1,514 prescribing advisors registered on the NPC database as of January 2008. Comparable information is not held for earlier years and information is not available on whether these prescribing advisers are employed on a full or part-time basis.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what statutory provisions he proposes to make regulations to give himself powers to suspend the chairmen and non-executive directors of NHS trusts and primary care trusts and to delegate such powers to the Appointments Commission. [183344]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State has power to make regulations to provide for the tenure of office of the chairman and directors of an national health service trust, including the circumstances in which they cease to hold office, or may be removed from office, or may be suspended from performing the functions of the office. The power is contained in the National Health Service Act 2006, Schedule 4, paragraph 4(l)(a).

The Secretary of State also has power to make regulations to provide for the tenure of office of the chairman and other members of a primary care trust (PCT), including the circumstances in which they cease to hold office or may be removed or suspended from office. The power is contained in the National Health Service Act 2006, Schedule 3, paragraph 4(l)(a).

Under section 58(1) and (2) of the Health Act 2006, the Appointments Commission is to exercise so much of any function of the Secretary of State relating to the appointment of chairmen and non-executive members of PCTs and NHS trusts as may be specified in a direction given by the Secretary of State.

Under section 71(2) of this Act, the reference to 'appointment' in section 58 includes removal or suspension from office.

NHS: Screening

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the screening programme for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* stroke, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* kidney disease and *(e)* aortic aneurysm will be operational in all strategic health authority areas. [180334]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing proposals for a screening programme. The purpose of the screening programme will be to identify people's levels of risk for cardiac and vascular disease so that they can be offered preventive measures.

The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme is still the subject of developmental work. It would be premature at this stage to set out specific details such as operational timescales.

With regard to screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm, discussions are underway with stakeholders to plan implementation starting with pilots in selected sites in England aiming for the programme to be operational in all strategic health authorities over the next five years.

Nurses: Pay

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary is of a *(a)* band 5 nurse working on a cancer ward and *(b)* cancer clinical nurse specialist; and how much it cost on average to train a nurse from band 5 to clinical nurse specialist level in the latest period for which figures are available. [178715]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to identify from central data the average salary of a band 5 nurse working on a cancer ward, however the band 5 salary ranges from £19,683 to £25,424. The role of a cancer clinical nurse specialist can vary locally and any particular role would need to be job evaluated, based on the demands of the job. It could range from bands 6 to possibly 8a with salary ranges from £23,458 to £43,335. Similarly, on average training costs it is not possible to provide a figure as the skill levels of these posts can vary and therefore training varies.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1192-3W, on obesity, how many children of each age were treated in each of the obesity clinics for children in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; [180785]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of each of the clinics in treating patients for obesity; and what plans he has to increase the number of obesity clinics in England; [180788]

(3) what the most recent waiting time statistics are for each of the clinics, including the number of weeks patients have waited from referral to treatment; and what the equivalent figures were for the last five financial years for which figures are available; [180789]

(4) according to what criteria patients are referred to the clinics; [180790]

(5) which primary care trusts each of the 12 clinics serve; [180791]

(6) how many patients each clinic saw in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; and what the funding for each clinic was in each of those years; [180792]

(7) which NHS obesity clinics have closed in the last five years; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* reason was for each closure; [180793]

(8) what the average cost of each finished consultant episode for *(a)* a primary diagnosis and *(b)* a primary or secondary diagnosis of obesity was in each year for which figures are available. [180796]

Dawn Primarolo: The White Paper 'Choosing Health: making Healthy choices easier' made a commitment that the prevention and treatment of obesity will ensure referral mechanisms to specialist obesity services that will be staffed by teams with specialist knowledge and training in obesity management. Local areas all decide the best types of treatments to provide for their own populations, in line with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

NICE has recommended that surgical intervention only be conducted after dietary, exercise and behavioural approaches have been started and evaluated, i.e. as a last resort. NICE have also recently published a commissioning guide on bariatric surgery to help the national health service in England effectively commission evidence-based care for patients.

The Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of clinics treating obesity and information on the number of patients seen (including children treated), waiting time, PCTs served by the existing NHS run clinics. Additional information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Patient Care

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 65 were assessed as having significant or urgent personal care needs in each year since 2001; and what the cost to the public purse of providing care to such people was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [180029]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the rate of stillbirths; [173927]

(2) when he expects to reply to question 173927, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes on 11 December 2007, on stillbirths. [183491]

Ann Keen: In April 2007, the Department published "Maternity Matters—Choice access and continuity of care in a safe service". The Department also publishes "The Pregnancy Book" for prospective parents, the most recent edition of which was published in May 2007. These two publications, one providing a framework for maternity services and the other providing information for parents, ensure that women can expect well-managed pregnancies in which the risks of stillbirth are reduced. However, one of the main causes of stillbirth remains very low gestational age. While increasingly large numbers of babies are surviving earlier deliveries, this remains an area of risk.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Nurses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new nursing staff were employed in the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each year since 1997. [180861]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the estimated number of nurse joiners at Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust as at 30 September 2004, 2005 and 2006 which are the latest data available.

As at 30 September each year	*Nurse joiners*
2004	194
2005	128
2006	72

Notes:
1. These figures are estimates based on annual snapshots. It is possible for a nurse to join and leave between 30 September in two consecutive years and not be counted as a joiner.
2. The joiners do not include bank staff and are joiners to the organisation, not newly qualified nurses joining the NHS.
3. The joiners may have been previously employed by the trust.

Source:
Health and Social Care information centre NHS Staff Censuses

Plastic Surgery: Licensing

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on the licensing of the provision of botox treatments. [178638]

Mr. Bradshaw: Botulinum toxin is a prescription-only medicine and cosmetic treatments using this medicine are covered by the Medicines Act 1968, which is administered by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Local authorities do not have any powers to license the provision of cosmetic treatments involving botulinum toxin, and the Department has therefore issued no guidance to local authorities in respect of these treatments.

Pregnancy: Health Services

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the antenatal (i) services and (ii) procedures provided to pregnant women in different primary care trust areas. [179766]

Ann Keen: The Department commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce a comprehensive suite of evidence-based guidelines on pregnancy and birth, including one on antenatal care issued in 2003. This is currently being revised and is expected to be published in March 2008.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for liver transplant operations in each primary care trust in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Greater London area is in 2007-08; and what the equivalent time was in (i) 1996, (ii) 1998, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2006. [177133]

Ann Keen: The average waiting time for a liver transplant for residents in Essex and Greater London primary care trusts (PCTs) is shown in the following table:

Primary care trusts	*1996*	*1998*	*2001*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
London primary care trusts						
Number waiting	50	55	68	65	77	61
Median wait time (days)	49.0	58.0	68.0	111.0	157.0	106
Essex primary care trusts						
Number waiting	4	6	12	9	17	10
Median wait time (days)	39.5	25.0	19.0	120.0	66.0	70.5

Notes

1. These figures are based on actual transplants that took place. All cases are first graft, elective transplants.

2. Essex PCTs include north east Essex, west Essex, south east Essex, south west Essex and mid Essex.

Primary Care Trusts: Interpreters

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by primary care trusts on interpreters in each year since 2001. [182851]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Queens Hospital Romford: Infectious Diseases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional resources will be allocated to Queen's hospital, Romford under the Government's recent announcement of extra staff to tackle hospital infections. [179670]

Ann Keen: The £45 million additional funding is allocated to primary care trusts for 2008-09 and will enable each hospital trust to employ two infection control nurses, two isolation nurses and an antimicrobial pharmacist. It is for Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals NHS trust, of which Queen's hospital, Romford is part of, to decide on actual staff numbers in light of their specific local hygiene and infection needs and existing staff levels.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has allocated any resources to be spent via the regional development agencies' single pot in 2007-08. [179811]

Dawn Primarolo: No resources have been allocated by the Department to the Regional Development Agencies' single pot.

Smoking

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the time taken to produce National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on smoking cessation techniques; and if he will make a statement. [183153]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is informed that there has been no delay to the production of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) public health programme guidance on smoking cessation. NICE expects to publish its guidance in February 2008 as planned. Further information on this guidance can be found on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11676

Tattooing

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to establish a system of registration for tattooing and piercing facilities; [178633]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of directions given in respect of reusable needles under the Department of Health's model bye laws issued in September 2007; [183074]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the regulations of *(a)* tattooing and piercing under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003 and *(b)* the model bye laws published in September 2007. [178733]

Dawn Primarolo: The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Local Government Act 2003, gives local authorities (LAs) powers to require tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses in their area to register and observe byelaws on hygiene and cleanliness. It is an offence for such a business to trade without being registered with the LA or to breach local byelaws.

LAs in London generally use the London Local Authorities Act 1991 (private legislation) which provides for a licensing scheme for businesses providing special treatments such as tattooing and cosmetic piercing. It is an offence to trade without being licensed or to breach licence conditions.

LAs also have general enforcement powers under health and safety at work legislation. This allows LAs to use improvement and prohibition notices, and ultimately prosecute tattooing and piercing businesses, if appropriate. This would include where there are concerns about a practitioner's competency. Under the licensing regime that exists in London, LAs may refuse a licence on grounds relating to a person's competency.

Information on the local regulation of tattooing and cosmetic piercing businesses by LAs is not collected centrally. However, we keep the legislation under review, taking account, for example, of any feedback from stakeholders such as LAs and their associations.

Transplant Surgery: Kidneys

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for kidney transplant operations in *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust and *(b)* London NHS trusts. [167287]

Ann Keen: The average waiting time for a kidney transplant in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge primary care trusts (PCTs) is shown in the following table:

Area	*Number in analysis*	*Median waiting time (days)*
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge PCTs	202	340
London Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	3,593	242

Note
These figures are based on actual kidney transplants. They are all first graft, elective transplants.

York Hospitals NHS Trust: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS trust, excluding those transferred to Selby and York primary care trust, in each year since 1996-97. [183434]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been set out in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Medical and Dental staff and non-medical staff within York hospitals NHS trust as at 30 September each specified year

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All HCHS staff	3,596	3,660	3,504	3,517	3,732	3,224	2,842	3,111	3,247	3,302	3,519
All Medical and Dental staff	215	261	274	283	281	258	237	294	320	344	370
Medical and Dental consultants	72	102	98	190	109	120	113	119	131	149	155
Other Medical and Dental staff	143	159	176	172	171	138	124	174	189	195	215
Total non-medical staff	3,381	3,399	3,230	3,234	3,451	2,967	2,605	2,817	2,927	2,958	3,149
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,704	1,771	1,667	1,707	1,840	1,476	1,270	1,335	1,393	1,430	1,539
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,310	1,362	1,235	1,268	1,375	1,132	915	948	990	1,023	1,111
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	394	409	431	438	465	344	355	387	402	407	428
Qualified allied health professions	223	228	246	245	257	154	169	187	195	194	206
Qualified healthcare scientists	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	94	98	105	113
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST and T)	171	181	186	193	208	189	186	106	109	109	109
Support to clinical staff	1,075	1,021	974	945	1,014	936	788	885	908	908	1,009
Support to doctors and nursing staff	976	915	866	832	887	783	605	688	707	696	793
Support to ST and T staff	99	105	108	113	128	153	183	197	201	212	217
NHS infrastructure support	597	602	583	576	591	554	548	597	626	621	600
Central functions	176	166	155	190	208	171	183	196	215	202	184
Hotel, property and estates	331	344	331	290	291	299	286	304	311	320	302

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Medical and Dental staff and non-medical staff within York hospitals NHS trust as at 30 September each specified year

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Managers and senior managers	90	92	97	96	92	84	79	97	100	99	114
Other staff or those with unknown classification	5	6	6	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0

n/a = not applicable

Notes:

1. It is not possible to identify staff that were transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust in 2001.
2. Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Source:

Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

York Hospitals NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the (a) average and (b) maximum waiting time for (i) in-patient and (ii) day case admissions was at York hospitals NHS trust in the quarter ending (a) June 2007, (b) September 2007 and (c) December 2007. [183433]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been set out in the following table.

In-patient waiting statistics concerning York health services NHS trust, time periods: June 2007 and September 2007

	Month ending	Organisation	Case	Median waiting time (weeks)	Timeband the longest waiter is waiting in
2007-08	June 2007	York Health Services NHS Trust	Daycase	6.0	19 to <20 weeks
2007-08	June 2007	York Health Services NHS Trust	Ordinary	6.5	19 to <20 weeks
2007-08	September 2007	York Health Services NHS Trust	Daycase	6.3	19 to <20 weeks
2007-08	September 2007	York Health Services NHS Trust	Ordinary	4.8	18 to <19 weeks

Notes:

1. The data are reported as a snapshot at a point in time. For this purpose the latest available period within the financial year is used.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. In-patient waiting times are measure from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
4. Data not available for month ending December 2007.

Source:

KH07

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Millennium Development Goals

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress is being made on achieving the targets outlined in the Millennium Development Goals; and if he will make a statement. [182982]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* DFID's public service agreements are based on the millennium development goals (MDGs). Progress was last reported in DFID's annual report which was presented to Parliament on 15 May 2007. It is available in the Library of the House of Commons and on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/departmental-report/2007/default.asp

The next up-date of this report will be published in May 2008.

There has been some progress towards the MDGs. The most recent official data at global level show that there has been good progress in reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty, increasing economic growth, getting more children into school, reducing child deaths and improving women's political and economic participation. Much more needs to be done, however, particularly in maternal mortality, girls' education, HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases, and accelerated improvements will be needed most urgently in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia if the MDGs targets are to be met.

The 2007 UN millennium development goals report, which can be found at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx, gives a comprehensive account of progress to date on each of the goals, including the challenges that remain.

China: Overseas Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much development aid his Department will provide to China in each of the next three years. [183038]

Mr. Malik: DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual country and regional allocations will not be finalised until March 2008.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of freedom of information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180216]

Mr. Malik: DFID has adopted a selective disclosure policy, whereby we aim to publish only requests likely to be of wider public interest. DFID published 5 per cent. of the 652 requests received between January 2005, when the Act came into force, and September 2007.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many (a) press and (b) communications officers his Department employed in each year since its establishment. [182515]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development was established in 1997. The number of press officers in that and each subsequent year are shown in the following table.

	Number of press officers
1997	6
1998	6
1999	4
2000	4
2001	5
2002	4
2003	6
2004	7
2005	7
2006	6
2007	6
Now	7

Communication is integral to DFID's work, and many staff in different teams in our UK headquarters and network of overseas offices are involved in communication work. It is not therefore possible to identify all such staff without incurring disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Infrastructure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote infrastructure development in the developing world. [182760]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) promotes infrastructure development in a number of ways. For example, through bilateral country programmes we support road building and maintenance in Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of Congo, rural transport in Vietnam and Ethiopia and rural access between communities in Nepal. DFID also supports a regional programme to advise on transport policy in Africa.

More widely, sponsorship of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), a multi-donor organisation, by the Government helps harness the finance and expertise of the private sector. In addition, US $20 million has been committed over three years to support the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) which helps co-ordination between donors and African countries through its secretariat in the African Development Bank. Additionally, a range of technical assistance and co-financing funds helps increase the effectiveness of other multi-lateral institutions which lead infrastructure development in developing countries (for example, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank).

Genetics

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the (a) effectiveness and (b) reliability of genetic use restriction technologies as a biosafety tool. [182656]

Mr. Thomas: There has been no specific assessment commissioned by the Department for International Development (DFID) on the effectiveness and reliability of genetic use restriction technologies as a biosafety tool. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published a review of the various technologies that might be used as biosafety tools for crops. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) also provided advice on the findings of this report. Both the study and the ACRE advice are available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/science/project_data/DocumentLibrary/CB02036/CB02036_3629_FRP.doc

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/acre/advice/pdf/acre_advice73.pdf

HIV/AIDS Infection

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on efforts to address HIV/AIDS. [178685]

Gillian Merron: DFID Ministers and senior officials have over the last few months held high-level discussions with a wide range of international counterparts, including: G8 colleagues, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Ministers of Health from the International Health Partnership (IHP) countries, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), the Clinton Foundation, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others.

Discussions have concentrated on international commitments to HIV and AIDS, including the commitment to universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010.

HIV Infection: Children

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the rights and needs of children affected by

AIDS are a priority in the revision of the Government strategy Taking Action, the UK Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World; and whether the revised strategy will include the continuation of the commitment to earmarking 10 per cent. of all HIV funding to children affected by AIDS. [182873]

Gillian Merron: Building on the submissions we received during the public consultation process last year we are now updating Taking Action, the UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world. The needs and rights of children affected by AIDS will remain a UK priority when it is published later this year.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support national governments to ensure the provision of co-trimoxazole to all HIV-exposed children as a prophylaxis and for the treatment of opportunistic infections. [182875]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are at the forefront of strengthening health systems, including their distribution systems, to improve access to essential drugs such as cotrimoxazole. For example, in Zambia, we are working with the World Bank to help develop a pilot for innovative ways to improve delivery in the public distribution system. It was a DFID-funded trial in Zambia which first showed how cotrimoxazole can reduce mortality in children living with HIV by up to 43 per cent.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support national governments to deliver comprehensive and integrated prevention of mother-to-children HIV/AIDS transmission services, outlined by the G8 summit in June 2007. [182877]

Gillian Merron: DFID's financial support to health systems in developing countries is helping to ensure that pregnant women are able to access the ante natal and delivery care services they need to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The International Health Partnership, which was launched by the Prime Minister in September 2007, will help ensure that donor resources are better coordinated, that they back strong national health development plans and that they focus on strengthening the health systems that deliver better services.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department plans to ensure the development of infant diagnostics for HIV, adaptable to resource-limited settings; and how this will be achieved. [182878]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government make substantial financial contributions to both UNITAID (the International Drugs Purchase Facility) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to which the UK is the second largest country funder.

UNITAID provided $35.9 million in 2006-07 for paediatric treatment and diagnosis. UNICEF is working in several countries in Africa to improve methods of infant diagnosis of HIV, with the result that more infants and small children are being safely and effectively tested and treated.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the Government plans to meet the commitment made by G8 leaders at Heiligendamm to contribute substantially to *(a)* the estimated US 1.5 billion dollar cost of providing universal coverage of prevention of mother to child transmission programmes, *(b)* the US 1.8 billion dollars cost of providing universal access to paediatric treatment by 2010 and *(c)* providing care for 10 million orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. [182879]

Gillian Merron: The UK is the second largest government donor of AIDS-related assistance. In 2006-07 we provided £481 million to help tackle HIV and AIDS and have a strong track record of translating G8 commitments into action. The UK has called on other G8 countries to play their part in meeting their commitments. The UK Government are in the process of updating our strategy on tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world. The needs and rights of children affected by AIDS will remain a UK priority, and this will be reflected in the update to Taking Action.

HIV Infection: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is working with civil society organisations to develop and implement a system to track HIV and AIDS resources to ensure that they reach the communities which are most affected and to monitor the results they achieve. [182874]

Gillian Merron: It is crucial that resources reach the communities most affected by HIV and AIDS. UNAIDS collects country data through national AIDS spending assessments (NASA) which track the country response to HIV and AIDS and support the monitoring of resource needs. DFID is supporting NASAs in several countries. DFID also supports national AIDS councils to monitor and evaluate the impact of their national AIDS strategies.

Jordan: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to offer Jordan assistance with improving animal welfare; and if he will make a statement. [182927]

Mr. Malik: In line with our aim to get best value from the UK aid programme, DFID prioritises funding where it can make the greatest impact. Jordan is a middle-income country and does not have a bilateral DFID programme. DFID, however, continues to support Jordan through international institutions such as the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank. In 2005, we provided £12 million through these organisations to promote good governance, economic growth and poverty reduction in Jordan. In light of this, DFID will not be directly supporting animal welfare programmes in Jordan.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 3 December 2007 about British-based mining companies. [183428]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 3 December 2007 has been issued.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 20 December 2007 on fair trade for Africa. [183430]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 20 December 2007 has been issued.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the multi donor trust funds to Sudan on health service provision in South Sudan. [182682]

Gillian Merron: The Multi Donor Trust Fund-South (MDTF-S) and the Government of South Sudan are co-financing a health sector development programme, with total funding of US$225 million over three years, which started in 2005. In addition to regular assessments conducted by the World Bank, DFID commissioned a review on behalf of MDTF donors of both of Sudan's multi-donor trust funds. This review, completed in December 2007, found that the performance of the MDTF-S funded Southern Sudan Umbrella Health Project had improved, after a slow start.

The review, and the World Bank assessments, show that the specific impact on health service provision includes:

strengthened pharmaceutical supply systems including the procurement of US$20 million of medicines, one million insecticide-treated bed nets and the rehabilitation of storage facilities;

training courses held for key health workers;

US$1 million allocated to each state for the rehabilitation of health infrastructure; and

strengthened institutional capacity of the public health administration including the establishment of a functioning Executive Board in the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The MDTF-S is also being used to fund Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health to assist the Ministry of Health with its overall capacity-building, including by training its staff on daily operations and organising its personnel structure.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of the Adjudicator's Office was for the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [181028]

Jane Kennedy: In 2006-07, the cost of running the Adjudicator's Office was £2,479,033.

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Evennett: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where the underlying cause was alcohol-related were recorded in the London Borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [178670]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where the underlying cause was alcohol-related were recorded in the London borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. (178670)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in the London borough of Bexley, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death, London[1] borough of [2]Bexley.1997-2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)
1997	16
1998	22
1999	19
2000	25
2001	24
2002	26
2003	27
2004	17
2005	21
2006	22

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007. [3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) Cause of death

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) Cause of death

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2. Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	142.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. biliary cirrhosis	K74 (excl) K74.3-K74.5
Alcoholic induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions data from the child benefit database have been copied to a data disc in the last 12 months. [173368]

Jane Kennedy: Transferring data is a core part of everyday HMRC business.

On 20 November 2007, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Pointer, the chair of Price Waterhouse Coopers.

The interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House. The final report is expected in the first half of 2008.

Children

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dependent children living with *(a)* married couples and *(b)* single mothers there were in households in the UK in the second quarter of each year from 1997 to 2006. [183624]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for how many dependent children living with (a) married couples and (b) single mothers there were in the second quarter of each year in households in the UK from 1997 to 2006. (183624)

The number of dependent children living in UK households by family type can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates for the second quarter of the requested years are shown in the Table 1.

Table 1: Number of dependent children in UK households by family type

Thousand

Family type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Married couples	9,537	—	9,171	—	8,959	8,791	8,721	8,565	8,501	8,387
Female lone parents	2,514	—	2,698	—	2,694	2,813	2,803	2,809	2,812	2,830

Note:

Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 and 2000.

Conditions of Employment: Parking

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made by his investigation into whether employees' parking spaces should be considered as a benefit in kind for taxation purposes. [183266]

Jane Kennedy: Workplace parking is exempt from income tax by virtue of s237 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. We have no plans to change this.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many construction companies have been fined for the late returns of their construction industry scheme contractor monthly returns; and how many companies have had warning notices issued for the same breach. [178592]

Jane Kennedy: Since the introduction of automatic penalties for late monthly returns in October, the following number of contractors have had penalty notices served on them under the provisions of the construction industry scheme.

	Contractors
October 2007	35,919
November 2007	44,921
December 2007	37,618

A breakdown of the number of contractors receiving reminders in each month is not available.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records the Valuation Office Agency collects on conservatories and their floor-area for the purposes of council tax valuations and revaluations. [183264]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency collects information on the presence, basic structure and size of conservatories.

Customs Officers: Vacancies

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vacancies for customs officers there are in HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [174548]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is not currently recruiting for Customs Officers.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183200]

Angela Eagle: Expenditure on public relations consultancy is contained within the total external consultancy figures and cannot be separately identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Energy: Fees and Charges

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on the regulatory response to recent changes in the cost of energy for domestic use; and if he will make a statement. [183427]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 23 January, *Official Report*, column 2096W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 17 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Abdul Rashid. [178732]

Jane Kennedy: I have done so.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the economic contribution of migrants to the UK economy by *(a)* economic sector and *(b)* age cohort in each of the last five years. [178719]

Angela Eagle: Latest data available from the Office for National Statistics indicate that between the start of the current phase of the economic cycle in 2001 Q3 and mid-2006, migration contributed around 0.5 percentage points per year to growth in the working age population, and therefore towards the trend rate of growth in the economy.

The Treasury has not made any assessment of the contribution of migrants by economic sector. However, this is discussed in the recent Home Office/DWP submission to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Select Committee report 'The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration'. This is available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7237/7237.pdf

Natural England: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has access to Natural England's MAGIC database. [183272]

Jane Kennedy: The MAGIC database is freely available to anyone over the internet.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of nationalising Northern Rock. [179803]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1207. The cost of taking Northern Rock into public ownership would depend on the approach taken.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what monetary value was assigned to *(a)* each of the ministerial residences in Admiralty House and *(b)* the Government House in Pimlico in the most recent edition of the Government's National Asset Register. [183407]

Yvette Cooper: The National Asset Register separately identifies assets above a £1 million de minimis threshold, but the boundary of what constitutes a single asset is determined by the Department that owns the asset. No breakdown of the value of the assets in question by individual residence is available in the National Asset Register.

Passengers: Surveys

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) at which points of entry interviews are conducted as part of the international passenger survey; [178678]

(2) what percentage of inbound *(a)* flights, *(b)* ferries, *(c)* coaches and *(d)* trains arrived at points of entry where the international passenger survey is conducted in the latest period for which figures are available. [178681]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking what percentage of inbound (a) flights, (b) ferries, (c) coaches and (d) trains arrived at points of entry where the international passenger survey is conducted in the latest period for which figures are available (178681), and at which points of entry interviews are conducted (178678).

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) does not have information relating to the number of inbound flights, ferries, coaches or trains sampled as a proportion of all arrivals. However, the number of passengers passing through ports of entry as a proportion of the total number of passengers by each mode of transport is shown below. It should be noted that coaches are identified via the route they arrive in the UK, either by ferry or by Eurotunnel.

Number of international passengers arriving at ports in the UK by mode of transport, 2006

	Total passengers through all ports (thousand)	*Total passengers through IPS sampled sites (thousand)*	*Proportion through IPS sampled sites (percentage)*
Airports	86,390	82,823	96
Seaports	11,741	10,091	86
Channel tunnel			
Eurostar	3,621	3,621	100
Eurotunnel	1,778	1,778	100

Source:
CAA, Department for Transport, Eurotunnel, Eurostar

The IPS is carried out at the following points of entry:

Airports

London Heathrow;
Gatwick;
Stansted;
Manchester;
Edinburgh;
Glasgow;
Prestwick;
Newcastle;
Liverpool;
Leeds/Bradford;
East Midlands;
Birmingham;
Luton;
Bristol;
Cardiff;
London City.

Sea routes

Dover-Calais;
Dover-Dunkirk;
Portsmouth-Caen;
Portsmouth-St Malo;
Portsmouth-Cherbourg;
Portsmouth-Le Havre;
Poole-Cherbourg;
Plymouth-Santander;
Plymouth-Roscoff;
Harwich-Hook of Holland;
Harwich-Esbjerg;
Newcastle-Stavanger/Haugesund/Bergen;
Newcastle-Amsterdam;
Hull-Rotterdam;
Hull-Zeebrugge;
Pembroke-Rosslare
Fishguard-Rosslare;
Holyhead-Dublin;
Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire;
Rosyth-Zeebrugge;
Southampton-New York QM2.

Rail

Waterloo (up to November 2007);
St Pancras (from November 2007);
Ashford;
Ebbsfleet (from November 2007);
Cheriton-Coquelles.

In addition, from April 2008 interviewing will be introduced at Southampton, Bournemouth and Doncaster airports.

Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency's membership of the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard cost in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [183263]

Jane Kennedy: The VGA's membership of the Property Information System Common Exchange Standard cost £10,000 plus VAT in the most recent year, 2007-08.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency is planning to make of the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard in relation to *(a)* the transfer of data on domestic properties and *(b)* residential valuations including the automated valuation model. [183265]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has no plans to make use of electronic standards published by PISCES for *(a)* the transfer of data on domestic properties, or *(b)* residential valuations including its automated valuation model.

Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard: Internet

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Property Information Systems Common Exchange Standard XML schema includes provision for the inclusion of the Valuation Office Agency's unique address reference number. [183262]

Jane Kennedy: The address component of the PISCES developed XML schema has the provision to hold any unique reference, along with the additional data needed to identify who owns that unique reference. The Valuation Office Agency has been identified as being one of these unique reference owners for addressing within the standards published by PISCES.

Public Bodies: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent edition of its guidance on regularity and propriety in force for public authorities and accounting officers. [183406]

Yvette Cooper: The most recent Treasury guidelines on regularity and propriety are contained in 'Managing Public Money', which is available in the Library of the House. The information is also available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://managingpublicmoney.treasury.gov.uk.

Public Sector: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government Actuary's Department has completed reviews of or reports into the pension schemes in *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* the police force, *(c)* local government and *(d)* the Civil Service in the last five years. [182926]

Yvette Cooper: The Government Actuary has completed the following reports on actuarial valuations of the NHS pension schemes in the last five years:

NHS Pension Scheme in	*Valuation date*	*Completion date*
England and Wales	31 March 1999	March 2003
Northern Ireland	31 March 1999	October 2004
Scotland	31 March 1999	November 2005
England and Wales	31 March 2004	December 2007

In July 2004, the Government Actuary also completed a report on the actuarial valuation of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) as at 31 March 2003.

Assessments by the Government Actuary's Department of the liabilities of each of the NHS pension schemes and the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme (Northern Ireland) are published annually within the schemes' resource accounts; the last such assessments completed were as at 31 March 2007.

During the last five years the Government Actuary has not completed any actuarial reviews of pension schemes for the police force or local government.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has designated an official as responsible for data security; and if he will make a statement. [173354]

Jane Kennedy: As the Principal Accounting Officer for HMRC the chairman has ultimate responsibility for data security.

In addition a senior HMRC Director was appointed as Director of Data Security on 23 November 2007 with responsibility for overseeing all of the department's data security issues.

A data guardian role has also been created in each HMRC Business Unit to monitor data handling and transfer arrangements in all of HMRC's business areas.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the revenue received from customers telephoning on telephone numbers beginning 08 by HM Revenue and Customs in the last five financial years. [183042]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member for Cheltenham to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W.

In addition no revenue has been received by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of customers telephoning their 08 (non-geographic) telephone services in the current financial year.

Revenue and Customs: Welshpool

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down by subheading the effect on costs of the restructuring of the Welshpool HM Revenue and Customs office; and if he will make a statement. [183305]

Jane Kennedy: The Welshpool office has not yet been reviewed.

More generally, HM Revenue and Customs is restructuring all its business operations in order to provide a better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer. Most of its business units can work more efficiently by consolidating in a smaller number of offices. The cost savings, to the Department as a whole, from that increased efficiency, cannot realistically be apportioned to any one office.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the staff in the HM Revenue and Customs office in Welshpool to be informed of the future status of and plans for that office; and if he will make a statement. [183310]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has too much office space and has been engaged in a review programme to decide which offices best suit its future business needs and should therefore be retained.

The programme has been paused while HMRC considers how best to take forward the recommendations of the capability review of the Department published in December. When it resumes, all staff will be notified of the revised timetable for their office reviews including consultation.

Stamp Duties

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 906W, on stamp duties, how many homes claimed the tax relief for zero carbon homes from 1 December 2007 to date, according to HM Revenue and Customs records. [183157]

Jane Kennedy: Of those transactions for which a stamp duty land tax certificate was issued in December 2007, three transactions claimed the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes. Figures are not yet available for 2008.

The tax relief will help stimulate the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

We expect the numbers of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market.

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Tax Avoidance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals were identified as having intentionally failed to comply with tax regulations in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [183308]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available, as HMRC does not currently record information about the intention of those who fail to comply with tax regulations.

Tax Credit Office: Administration

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total annual administrative costs of the Tax Credit Office were for the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of those costs related to *(a)* processing claims, *(b)* dealing with inquiries and *(c)* resolving complaints. [181088]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) delivers tax credits through a number of its business units including the Tax Credit Office (TCO). The TCO has a number of roles largely relating to handling awards that cannot be processed automatically by HMRC computer systems. For example, TCO will help bring new claims into payments where customers have provided incomplete information. TCO also handles most written inquiries put to HMRC about tax credits, including complaints and requests for reviews of decisions.

TCO staffing costs for 2006-07 were around £84.3 million and the staff costs of handling complaints in the TCO in the same period was around £4.5 million. The other information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

For information relating to the full costs of delivering tax credits, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Tax Relief: Exercise

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider bringing forward proposals for introducing tax relief on gym membership for the clinically obese. [183314]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to introduce tax relief on gym membership for the clinically obese.

Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual revenue has been from *(a)* duty on alcohol and *(b)* VAT on sales of alcohol in the last five reported years; and if he will make a statement. [182941]

Angela Eagle: Excise duty receipts for alcoholic products can be found in the HM Customs and Excise 'Bulletins', for Spirits, Wine, Beer and Cider, which can be found on a HM Customs and Excise website address at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins

The value added tax (VAT) receipts for alcohol products are not available. HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Taxation: Construction

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies in the construction sector have been fined since the introduction of the new construction industry scheme for wrongly stating the employment status of a member of their workforce; and how many workers were given the wrong status by each such company. [178591]

Jane Kennedy: Information provided on returns made by contractors under the new construction industry scheme is used to inform employer compliance reviews undertaken by (HMRC). These reviews can include checking the employment status of workers as well as other aspects of the return.

Employer compliance reviews involve examination of records and fact finding and consequently they can take some time to complete. At present, no instances have arisen where penalties have had to be imposed because of an incorrect declaration of employment status by a contractor.

Unemployment: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many workless households there were in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. [178669]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of workless households in a) Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency and b) the London Borough of Bexley in each year since 1997. (178669)

The attached table gives the number of workless working-age households for Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency and the London Borough of Bexley, for the three months ending in June. Information for Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency is only available for 1999 and 2001-2007. Information for London Borough of Bexley is only available for 1997, 1999 and 2001-2007. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

A household is defined as a single person, or a group of people living at the same address who have the address as their only main residence and either share one main meal a day or share the living accommodation (or both). A workless working-age household is one that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of workless households[1] in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London borough of Bexley[2], April to June 1999 to 2007, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	*London borough of Bexley*
1997	[3]—	7
1998	[3]—	[3]—
1999	4	8
2000	[3]—	[3]—
2001	3	9
2002	3	9
2003	2	6
2004	4	7
2005	2	6
2006	3	10
2007	4	10

[1] A workless household is a household with at least one person of working age (male aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59), and in which no one aged 16 or over is in employment.

[2] Figures have not been adjusted to include estimates for households with unknown economic activity.

[3] Comparable estimates are not currently available

Note:

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Valuation Office: Press

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which periodicals *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs subscribed in the latest period for which figures are available. [176409]

Jane Kennedy: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Business streams, including the Valuation Office Agency, order business periodicals as required in order to keep abreast of developments in their areas of expertise and are responsible for meeting the costs of any appropriate journals and periodicals out of their overall operating budgets.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 509W, on Valuation Office: Rightmove, if he will make it his policy not to extend the contract for a further 12 months. [178658]

Jane Kennedy: This is an operational decision for the Valuation Office Agency, who should continue to gather, in the most cost-effective way, the data it requires to perform its statutory functions.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the data that the Valuation Office Agency collects from Rightmove.co.uk using the market comparable reporting tool include data derived from the Rightmove automated valuation model database. [183268]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency only has access to the information which was freely available to the public while a property was being advertised for sale on the Rightmove web site.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of families were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming (i) working tax credit and (ii) child tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [183568]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the take-up rate for child and working tax credits in 2004-05, for which latest figures are available, are published in table 1 of the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2004-05'. This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards are available in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Annual Awards', for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These publications and provisional estimates for the number of families with tax credit awards, as at selected dates in 2006-07 and 2007-08, are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

We do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credits: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in North Devon were in receipt of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit in each year since 1997. [183081]

Jane Kennedy: Child and Working Tax Credits were introduced in April 2003.

Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, by constituency and local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Geographical Analysis" for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credits: EU Nationals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1236W, on welfare tax credits: EU nationals, whether he plans to collect this data in the future; and if he will make a statement. [178802]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 210W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of fraud arising from tax credit claimants claiming to be living alone when living as part of a couple. [180821]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The estimated level of error and fraud by category under tax credits is published in Table 7 of the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Error and fraud statistics 2004-05' which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-error0405.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost of recovering overpayments of tax credits. [181038]

Jane Kennedy: Tax credit overpayments can either be recovered automatically from continuing entitlement or, where entitlement has ended in respect of the overpaid award, HMRC will oversee the direct recovery of tax credits debt.

The overall cost of recovering overpayments of tax credits is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 71W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were handled by the tax credits helpline in each year for which figures are available. [180231]

Jane Kennedy: For the period up to April 2006 I would refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the then Paymaster General on 12 September 2005, *Official Report*, column 2407W, on 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2137W and on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 188W. The following table shows the number of tax credit helpline calls that were handled between 1 May 2006 and 31 December 2007.

	Calls handled (thousand)
2006	
May	2,284
June	2,225
July	2,185
August	2,667
September	2,073
October	1,752
November	1,896
December	1,168
2007	
January	1,759
February	1,829
March	1,723
April	1,876
May	2,288
June	2,400
July	2,747
August	2,026
September	1,841
October	1,629
November	1,529
December	1,013

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on advertising the tax credits helpline in each year for which figures are available. [180232]

Jane Kennedy: No money has been spent on specifically promoting the tax credits helpline, though the helpline number does appear in advertisements.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about the tax credits helpline were received in each year for which figures are available. [180234]

Jane Kennedy: For the period up to April 2006 I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Paymaster General on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 2004W. Between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007, 2,084 complaints about the tax credits helpline were received by HMRC's customer contact directorate. For the current tax year, April 2007 to date, figures are not yet readily available.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training is given to staff working on the Tax Credits Helpline; and how many full working days of training staff must undertake before handling calls to the Helpline. [180236]

Jane Kennedy: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Paymaster General on 21 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1576W, regarding the training that is given to Tax Credits Helpline advisers.

The initial training course for Tax Credits Helpline advisers is 15 working days, after which time advisers would be expected to handle calls. However depending on their individual skills and confidence, trainees might handle some calls before then under close supervision before then. A period of post training support is also provided and on-going call coaching ensures that Helpline adviser's skills and knowledge are developed. In addition, training is delivered across the Tax Credit Helpline service in response to procedural and legislative changes.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the training budget is for the Tax Credits Helpline in each year of the 2007 Spending Review period. [180237]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available.

HMRC has a centrally managed budget for human resource and learning activities (which includes training) and does not have separate budgets for each of its contact centre lines of business such as the Tax Credits Helpline.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the total cost of training staff working on the Tax Credits Helpline in each year for which figures are available. [180238]

Jane Kennedy: The data requested are not available in the format requested as the information cannot be disaggregated from other costs.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 1 February 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks: Accountancy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will appoint an independent inquiry into the way banks have accounted for subprime loans; [178525]

(2) if he will investigate the extent of off balance sheet accounting by banks; [178526]

(3) what discussions he has held with the auditors of Northern Rock in connection with the company's accounting practices. [178527]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The supervision of banks in the UK is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), acting on an independent basis. The Treasury has not held discussions with the auditors of Northern Rock on its accounting practices. The accounting treatment of assets and liabilities in banks is governed by standards proposed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and adopted by the EU. The IASB is re-examining through its consultative process the accounting standards for consolidation of exposures on a bank's balance sheet, with a paper planned for the second half of 2008. The Government, with the FSA and the Financial Reporting Council, will be involved in the development and adoption of any new or amended EU standard.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which UK enterprises that have received state aid are registered on the European Commission's state aid scoreboard. [181762]

Mr. Thomas: The scoreboard is the Commission's benchmarking instrument for state aid, providing a transparent and publicly accessible source of information on the overall state aid situation in each of the EU member states and on the Commission's current state aid control activities. Thus all the state aid received by enterprises across the EU is reflected in the scoreboard, but it does not provide details of state aid received by individual enterprises.

Carbon Monoxide: Safety

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to *(a)* reduce the cost and *(b)* improve the availability of domestic carbon monoxide detectors with audible alarms and combined smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. [182674]

Mr. Thomas: The Government acknowledge the safety benefits of these items but do not consider that there is a need to intervene on pricing or availability.

Certification Officer

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role is performed by each of the Certification Officer's employees. [183604]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The roles of the Certification Officer's nine employees are as follows:

one Assistant Certification Officer (who oversees the work of the office and carries out functions delegated to him by the Certification Officer such as approval of Political Fund Rules and registration of mergers).

two Operations Managers (who oversee complaints about breach of rule and statute and deal mainly with mergers political funds, Annual Returns, Certificates of Independence and financial irregularity issues),

two Complaints Case Managers (dealing with breach of statute and breach of rule complaints),

one Administration Manager (who deals with Annual Returns, listing and change of names),

two Executive Officers (administration) and

one Administrative Officer.

Exports

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK businesses which did not export to other European Union member states in the latest period for which figures are available. [181720]

Mr. Thomas: Figures for the proportion of UK businesses which do not export to the European Union are not collected.

HM Revenue and Customs publish some data on the number of companies exporting goods to the European Union as part of their quarterly regional trade statistics. The Single Market removal of customs declarations in 1993 and the subsequent successful reduction of administrative and statistical burdens on businesses mean that those numbers exclude the vast majority of exporters to the EU as they do not have to complete the Intrastat survey form. Nor do the numbers include companies who export services.

News Corporation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1631W, what plans he or his officials have to meet representatives of *(a)* Virgin Media, *(b)* ITV plc, *(c)* Rapture Television and *(d)* other interested parties in relation to the Competition Commission's report on BSkyB's acquisition of ITV plc shares. [182426]

Mr. Thomas: None. We were content that, prior to taking the decisions announced on 29 January, we had no need to receive oral representations from those parties additional to the written representations we had received from them.

Overseas Trade: China

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations his Department has received from British businesses and service providers on non-payment for goods and services provided to Chinese companies. [179391]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not readily available as the Department does not maintain a central record of the representations it has received on this issue. Furthermore, the Department considers that the cost of retrieving and collating this information, for an unspecified number of years, would incur disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Communities and Homes Agency: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the proposed budgets are for the *(a)* Communities and Homes Agency and *(b)* Office for Tenants and Social Landlords in the first full year of operation. [171636]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency will have a proposed programme budget of at least £4 billion in its first year of operation (2009-10). We will outline the exact budget once it is decided which delivery programmes will transfer from the Department.

For 2009-10 we estimate that the budget for the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords will be £25 million.

Council Tax: Appeals

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what adjustments in cash terms have been made to the collection funds of each billing authority in England as a result of successful council tax appeals by the householder in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* so far in 2007-08. [183212]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tax appeals relating to England have been considered in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 to date by the Valuation Tribunal Service; and what proportion and how many resulted in a lower council tax banding for the householder. [183222]

John Healey: The Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) has held information centrally on the number of successful appeals since the beginning of 2006-07.

	Number of council tax appeals received	*Number of council tax appeals considered by tribunals*	*Percentage of considered appeals that were allowed or allowed in part*
2005-06	21,805	n/a	n/a
2006-07	27,130	5,274	12.25
2007-08 (to 31 December 2007)	25,141	4,176	19.01

n/a = not available

It is wrong to assume that all banding appeals are about reducing a property's banding. An appeal can be made on other grounds, such as how a previously single dwelling should be split up into a number of separate units (e.g. flats), and from what date the change should appear in the valuation list. The VTS does not currently keep information on whether allowing an appeal, in full or in part, results in a change of banding.

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision was made in the most recent local government grant settlement for local authorities in Gloucestershire to introduce flood resilience measures. [178797]

John Healey: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities have the freedom to spend the grant on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service. It is for local authorities to set their budgets, taking into account the needs of their local community.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* home condition reports were commissioned in the six area trials in England and Wales prior to 1 August; [171581]

(2) how many *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* home condition reports were subsidised, in whole or in part, under the funding allocated to six area trials in England and Wales. [171585]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

IPSOS-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the Library of the House once the project has been finalised.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any assessment has been made of the level of compliance by *(a)* home owners and *(b)* estate agents with the requirement for a home information pack. [182602]

Caroline Flint: Local authority weights and measures authorities and the Office of Fair Trading have been given the responsibility for enforcing the Home Information Pack duties through s.166 and s.175 of the Housing Act 2004.

Housing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's estimate is of the additional cost to the housing market renewal programme caused by speculative buying; and if she will make a statement; [166229]

(2) what steps she is taking to prevent speculative buying in housing market renewal areas as referred to in the National Audit Office report on housing market renewal. [166230]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not make such estimates, chiefly because it is difficult to define exactly what is speculation.

Pathfinders work closely with local residents and, where acquisition of property is necessary, encourage them to sell directly to the pathfinder rather than to third parties. As with other compulsory purchases, compensation arrangements also differentiate between owner occupiers and others, with those who can demonstrate residence for at least a year receiving a 10 per cent. home loss payment on top of the market value for the property, and landlords or investors receiving a 7.5 per cent. basic loss payment on top of market value.

While it is difficult, therefore, to be precise about the extent of speculative activity, the Government and pathfinders will continue to keep this under review, although it would clearly be inappropriate to curtail residents' legitimate rights to sell.

Housing: Expenditure

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information she holds on the percentage of gross national product spent on *(a)* housing and *(b)* affordable social housing in each OECD country (i) in the last year for which figures are available and (ii) in 1997. [165536]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: Communities and Local Government do not hold data on the percentage of gross national product spent on *(a)* housing and *(b)* affordable social housing in each of the OECD countries. There are data available on the percentage of gross domestic product spent on housing by OECD countries where data are available on the OECD website. Details can be found at:

http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=SOCX_AGG

There are a number of drop down menus on this page that allow you to select housing expenditure in both public or private sectors.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential dwellings were built within flood risk areas in England in each year since 1997. [171566]

Caroline Flint: It is the responsibility of local authorities to plan properly for their housing provision, on the basis of specific sites that reflect clear and informed strategies for the location of housing development, and for the infrastructure needed to service it. Of course flood risk is a major factor in deciding the location of new development and the Government's aim is to avoid inappropriate development in such areas. We have strengthened the system significantly—new planning rules introduced last year (PPS25) make clear that councils should not give the go ahead to new housing in areas where the Environment Agency advise against it. The new rules are already beginning to have an impact and it is vital that councils continue to work with the Environment Agency to ensure that new homes are safe from flooding and property sustainable for the future. Flood risk must be taken into account at all stages of the planning process. Development that would not be safe in the higher flood risk areas should be directed to areas of lower risk wherever this is practicable.

The following table gives the information requested and relates to the period before the planning system was strengthened:

	New dwellings built in high flood risk areas
1997	13,400
1998	11,700
1999	12,400
2000	12,100
2001	11,300
2002	13,000
2003	14,900
2004	15,200
2005	13,700

Notes:
1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007.

Source:
Communities and Local Government completions data (2007), Source data: Land Use Change Statistics data (LUCS 22A, October 2007)

The definition of high flood risk areas used by Communities and Local Government is the high risk zone mapped by the Environment Agency as being at a probability of flooding, excluding the presence of flood defences, of at least one in 100 each year for river flooding and at least one in 200 for coastal flooding. High flood risk areas account for about 10 per cent. of land in England, including parts of major cities such as London.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) to what extent a homebuyer has liability for the *(a)* Homebuy Agent's and *(b)* Yorkshire Building Society's equity loss if their home purchased under 32.5 per cent. Open Market Homebuy scheme is subsequently sold at less than the purchase price; [180392]

(2) under the 32.5 per cent. Open Market Homebuy scheme, what liability the Homebuy Agent has for *(a)* their own and *(b)* Yorkshire Building Society's equity loss if a property is subsequently sold for less than the original purchase price. [180393]

Caroline Flint: The information requested can be found in the booklet 'Exclusive Open Market HomeBuy Mortgage—for those eligible to buy a home under the Government's Open Market HomeBuy Scheme', a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Planning

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to consult hon. Members on bids for housing growth points in their constituencies submitted by local authorities. [179824]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: I look to those local authorities who have submitted expressions of interest to be growth points to consult with hon. Members as necessary. However, I am aware that an informal briefing session about potential growth points in the north-west was held in the House in December by Government office north-west, which hon. Members in relevant constituencies were invited to attend.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what events and conferences *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers from her Department have addressed relating to (i) the construction and housebuilding industry and (ii) the renewable energy industry since July 2006. [165300]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since July 2006 Communities and Local Government Ministers have attended the following events and conferences relating to the construction, housebuilding and renewable energy industry:

Ministers	*Event/conference details*
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (18 July 2006)	New Local Government Network
Secretary of State—Ruth Kelly (19 July 2006)	Keynote Speech at Housing Design Awards
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (21 September 2006)	Official opening of the Osborne Demonstration House at the Building Research Establishment
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (10 October 2006)	Speech to Housing Market Intelligence Conference
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Baroness Andrews (31 October 2006)	Speech to National Skills Forum networking Event on Industry Skills for Sustainable Communities
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (1 November 2006)	Keynote speech at the first Housing Corporation Gold Award conference
Secretary of State—Ruth Kelly (12 December 2006)	A visit to the BowZED development
Secretary of State—Ruth Kelly (13 December 2006)	Launch of the consultation on zero carbon new homes. "Towards Zero Carbon Development" event hosted by WWF
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (13 December 2006)	The Town and Country Planning Association's "Corporate Fellows Briefing and Consultation Meeting: Climate Change Policies and Regulation"
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (22 January 2007)	The Town and Country Planning Association's "Planning for Climate Change" conference
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (9 January 2007)	Home Builders Federation's zero carbon homes roundtable summit
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (7 February 2007)	DLA Piper's "Cooling the Planet" conference
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Baroness Andrews (20 February 2007)	Speech to British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) on Community Regeneration
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (8 March 2007)	Speech to the Construction Products Association Council Lunch
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (20 March 2007)	Visit to the Thamesmead Ecopark by Gallions Housing Association
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (22 March 2007)	Jointly run conference by the Home Builders Federation and the Energy Saving Trust entitled "The House that Bjorn Built"
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (25 March 2007)	Home Builders Federation AGM
Secretary of State—Ruth Kelly (4 April 2007)	Green Alliance summit on "Local Government and Climate Change"
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (18 April 2007)	Housing Forum National Conference
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (26 April 2007)	"Zero Carbon New Homes—Gaining clarification and exploring practical solutions" conference hosted by Construction News
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (2 May 2007)	Speech at Building Futures' "Futures Fair 2007"
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (15 May 2007)	Speech to BURA on climate change and Code for Sustainable Homes
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (15 May 2007)	Royal Institute of British Architects "Zero Carbon Homes" conference
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (24 May 2007)	Speech to Campaign for More and Better Homes national conference
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (6 June 2007)	HBF Zero Carbon Homes Roundtable Summit
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (11 June 2007)	Keynote speech at BRE's Offsite 2007
Secretary of State—Ruth Kelly (19 June 2007)	Keynote speech to Chartered Institute for Housing Annual Conference
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Angela Smith (21 June 2007)	A visit to Testway Housing's new environmentally sustainable housing development
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (26 June 2007)	The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes annual conference
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (17 July 2007)	The Local Government Association's conference on the Planning White Paper
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (17 July 2007)	A seminar from the Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group
Secretary of State—Hazel Blears (6 September 2007)	Speech at Great Places Housing Group Annual Reception
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (19 September 2007)	National Housing Federation's annual conference

Minister	*Event/conference details*
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (9 October 2007)	National House-Building Council's Housing Market Intelligence conference
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (10 October)	Speech to Housing Market Intelligence Conference
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (15 October 2007)	The District Leaders Sounding Board event
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Iain Wright (25 October 2007)	Speech on regeneration to BURA Sustainable Communities Summit 2007
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Iain Wright (25 October 2007)	BURA's "Sustainable Communities Summit: 2007 the Challenge of National Regeneration"
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (30 October 2007)	Launch of WWF's Housebuilders Benchmarking report
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (30 October 2007)	"Eco Towns" event hosted by the Princess Foundation
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (8 November 2007)	Adelaide Wharf launch
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Iain Wright (9 November 2007)	Confederation of British Industry "More Affordable? More Sustainable?" conference
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper (14 November 2007)	Keynote Speech to English Partnerships' Open Meeting 2007
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Baroness Andrews (14 November 2007)	Berkeley Group event Planning and Lifetime Homes
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Baroness Andrews (19 November 2007)	Launch event for the Lifetime Neighbourhood's
Minister for Housing and Planning Yvette Cooper (22 November)	Launch of the Calcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Iain Wright (29 November 2007)	Housing Magazine event
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Baroness Andrews (12 December 2007)	Seminar Building Better Communities
Secretary of State Hazel Blears (4 December 2007)	Keynote Speech to LGA/Energy Saving Trust Conference 'Climate Change: your council, your climate, your action'
Parliamentary Under-Secretary Iain Wright (5 December 2007)	Construction Industry Council Dinner
Minister for Local Government John Healey (29 January 2008)	Centre for Cities event

Key Worker Living Scheme: Police

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many police officers lived in key worker housing in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 2001. [166924]

Caroline Flint: Information on members of the police service who occupied key worker housing in *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 2001 is not held centrally and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

In England 3,213 members of the police service have been provided with housing assistance through the Starter Home Initiative (April 2001-March 2004) and the Key Worker Living programme (March 2004-October 2007), for which a breakdown is shown as follows

	Number
2001-02	10
2002-03	255
2003-04	1,048
2004-05	384
2005-06	857
2006-07	505
2007-08	154
Total	3,213

In London 1,661 members of the police service have been provided with housing assistance through the Starter Home Initiative (April 2001-March 2004) and the Key Worker Living programme (March 2004-October 2007). A detailed breakdown by year is not held centrally.

Local Authorities: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many separate items of data local authorities are required to collect for the compilation of the national indicator set. [183245]

John Healey: Following the consultation that ended on the 21- December, the Government are currently finalising the technical definitions for the national indicators. As part of this process, we are working closely with other Government Departments and key stakeholders to identify the data collections that will be required for the national indicator set, most of which are likely to be obtained from existing data returns. We anticipate that the majority of definitions will be agreed in time for implementation from April 2008.

Local Authorities: Political Impartiality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of local authority resources and facilities to engage in political campaigning by employees of the local authority. [178626]

John Healey: Guidance with regard to the content, style, distribution and cost of local authority publicity is contained in the "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity", issued by my Department under Section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986, as amended by section 27 of the Local Government Act 1988.

Local Government Finance: Audit Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on costs for local authorities of the Audit Commission's new fees structure; and what funding her Department will be giving to local authorities under the new burdens principle in relation to Audit Commission fees; [183244]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on Audit Commission: fees and charges, what estimate she has made of the audit fees for 2008-09 in *(a)* absolute terms and *(b)* as a percentage of those costs in 2007-08 for (i) a district council, (ii) a London borough, (iii) a unitary council, (iv) a metropolitan council and (v) a county council. [178687]

John Healey: The Audit Commission is responsible for setting the fees for audit in the local government and housing sector. Its consultation paper—'Proposed work programme and scales of fees 2008-09 and indicative fee proposals for 2009-10 and 2010-11' set out details of potential average audit fees.

The Commission expect to take the final decision on audit fees for 2008-09 in March. Over the next three years, as the rolling programme of corporate assessments is replaced with comprehensive area assessment, with its focus on outcomes, there will be a significant overall reduction in the total costs of regulation. The Government are committed to ensuring that the net new burdens that it places on local government are fully funded.

Local Government: Publicity

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs incurred by each shire county on publicity in each year since 2005-06. [183094]

John Healey: The Department does not collect information on the costs incurred on publicity by local authorities.

Mayor of London: Codes of Practice

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Standards Board for England have issued on the applicability of (i) the code of conduct for councillors and (ii) codes of conduct for local authority employees to the Mayor of London's senior policy advisers. [182249]

John Healey: Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Standards Board have issued guidance on the applicability of either the code of conduct for local councillors or codes of conduct for local government employees to advisers of the Mayor of London.

Non-domestic Rates: Agriculture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department undertook the review into agricultural de-rating in England. [182581]

John Healey: The Government accepted a Lyons inquiry recommendation to review all reliefs and exemptions within business rates and the pre Budget report 2007 announced that this review had concluded, although a specific review into agricultural de-rating of business rates in England was not conducted.

Non-domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in her Department worked on the Government's review of business rate reliefs and exemptions following the Lyons Inquiry. [182591]

John Healey: The review of Business rates reliefs was undertaken as part of the ongoing maintenance of the business rates system by Communities and Local Government, so no team was specifically set up for this task.

Planning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on planning, what the timetable is for the publication of the counter-terrorism supplement; and what its status will be in planning law. [182623]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government intend to publish during the summer of 2008 the counter-terrorism supplement which will accompany planning policy guidance Safer Places. In drafting this supplement the Home Office will be consulting with key stakeholders both within Government, with industry and with professional bodies involved in planning and design.

Government statements of planning policy must be taken into account, where relevant, in decisions on planning applications and in the preparation of planning policies. 'Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development' (PPS1) makes clear that the creation of safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion is a key planning objectives which planning authorities should take into account. PPS1 also says that planning authorities should have regard to good practice set out in 'Safer Places—the Planning System and Crime Prevention'. The counter terrorism supplement which will accompany Safer Places will, therefore, equally be capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and in the preparation of planning policies.

Pollution

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the new burdens doctrine contained in the central-local concordat over-rides the polluter pays principle. [182561]

John Healey: When developing policies, Government consider the polluter pays principle. In introducing new policies Government are committed to ensuring the net new burdens it places on local government are fully funded—so no additional pressure is placed on council tax.

Predictors of Beaconicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of predictors of beaconicity; and if she will make a statement. [182953]

John Healey: 'Predictors of Beaconicity:' was the title of a report by the Warwick Business School which looked at the factors associated with high and low levels of engagement with the Beacon Scheme. The Beacon Scheme identifies authorities and their partners that are delivering the best services to their local citizens and can share good practice.

Regional Government: Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the gross expenditure of each regional assembly in England outside London was in the last year for which figures are available. [183256]

John Healey: Details of regional assembly gross expenditure for the year 2006-07 are set out in the following table.

Regional assembly	*Gross expenditure (£)*
East of England	4,350,654
East Midlands	2,561,173
North East	2,109,234
North West	3,366,000
South East England	4,316,512
South West	4,761,206
West Midlands	2,266,197
Yorkshire and Humber	3,048,000

Regional Planning and Development: West Midlands

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contribution to the revised West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy house building requirements would be made in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* Worcestershire as the result of the construction of an eco-town at Long Marston. [178883]

Caroline Flint: I am unable to comment on individual proposals at this stage. The number of homes in individual proposals is indicative at this stage, but ranges between 5-20,000 in most proposals, which is in line with the eco-town criteria. We intend to publish a shortlist soon, once an individual assessment of proposals has taken place. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation before decisions on individual proposals are made.

Right to Buy Scheme: Social Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect on housing need if the right to buy policy is extended to registered social landlord tenants; and if she will make a statement. [181099]

Caroline Flint: The Government want to widen access to home ownership and help more people, including social tenants, build up assets.

Most registered social landlord (RSL) tenants have right to acquire or preserved right to buy. However, approximately 30 per cent. of RSL tenants do not have any right to purchase.

Social HomeBuy was introduced as a voluntary pilot scheme in April 2006 to provide new opportunities for social tenants who do not have right to buy or right to acquire or cannot afford outright purchase, to buy a share of their rented home. 77 RSLs and nine local authorities are currently offering the pilot scheme to their tenants.

The Government announced in December 2007 that Social HomeBuy will continue as a voluntary scheme to increase opportunities for social housing tenants to access home ownership, when the pilot period ends in March.

Seas and Oceans: Planning

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had with officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on *(a)* marine spatial planning and *(b)* planning for major infrastructure developments in the marine environment. [178590]

John Healey: Officials from my Department are members of the Working Group preparing the Marine Bill. They have had detailed discussions with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about a range of issues, including those of concern in the question. The Planning Bill gives effect to the results of those discussions.

UK Location Strategy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1169W, on the UK Location Strategy, if she will place in the Library a copy of the UK Location Strategy submitted to Ministers by the Geographic Information Panel. [178656]

Mr. Dhanda: A copy of the UK Location Strategy will be placed in the Library once it has been published.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received from residents of Worcestershire opposing the proposal to build an eco-town at Long Marston. [178882]

Caroline Flint: I am unable to comment on individual proposals at this stage. We intend to publish proposals shortly once an individual assessment has taken place. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation before decisions on individual proposals are made.

Wardens

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 685W, on wardens, what warden schemes are funded by local area agreements according to records held by the Government Offices for the Regions. [183159]

John Healey: Government offices for the regions do not collect information about which warden schemes are funded by local area agreements.

Wind Power: Licensing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for consultation between the proposed infrastructure planning commission and the proposed marine management organisation on the licensing of offshore wind farms producing over 100MW of power. [178587]

John Healey: The White Paper 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' sets out the process for decisions on development consents for renewable energy developments offshore. Those generating over 100 megawatts would be taken by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), while those up to and including 100MW would be determined by the proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

The MMO will be able to advise the IPC on the marine aspects of these major projects, including on conditions on developments, and will also monitor and enforce compliance. The Planning Bill would give the Secretary of State a power to specify relevant statutory consultees for the pre-application and examination phases, and we will consider whether we will need to exercise this power in relation to the proposed MMO when it is created.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Driving

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on encouraging members of the armed forces to improve their driving skills through *(a)* the Advanced Drivers Test and *(b)* refresher driving courses; and if he will make a statement. [182794]

Derek Twigg: The MOD recognises and promotes the benefits of improving driving skills to all members of the armed forces. The Department's guidance (JSP 800, Pt 5) encourages transport managers, road safety committees and road safety advisers to participate in national safe driving awards, and to develop driving skills. Any driver who has had familiarisation training on a particular vehicle but has not driven that vehicle for a period of 12 months or more, should receive refresher training.

For many years, MOD has worked with organisations such as the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to provide service personnel with the opportunity to take an advanced driving test. The Army provides many of its personnel with a pre-paid test voucher in order to do so.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what licence is required for military personnel in theatre to drive the *(a)* Snatch land rover, *(b)* WMIK, *(c)* E-WMIK, *(d)* M-WMIK, *(e)* variants of Pinzgauer Vectors, *(f)* Mastiff and *(g)* Future Ridgeback vehicles. [183610]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD policy is to comply with Department for Transport Driver Licensing regulations at all times, whether on operations or not. All the vehicles listed weigh over 3.5 tonnes; therefore all drivers of these vehicles are required to hold a category C licence.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are used to return non-UK citizens serving in the armed forces to their country of origin on discharge *(a)* if they have completed basic training, *(b)* on completing their engagement and *(c)* before they have completed their engagement. [180044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Non-UK citizens wishing to join the UK armed forces travel to the UK at their own expense and we do not normally return them to their countries of origin at public expense when they are discharged. It is therefore very much a personal decision, in line with Home Office policy, as to whether non-UK citizens return to their country of origin on discharge. An individual will normally be granted 28 days upon discharge to allow time for an application for further leave to remain to be lodged, or depart from the UK. Once an application is lodged they are able to remain in the UK legally while the application is processed.

The only exception to the rules is for Gurkhas, who are enlisted in Nepal and brought to the UK at public expense, and are now discharged in the UK and then returned to Nepal (if they wish) at public expense.

These policies have been agreed with the Home Office in order to ensure that they are not abused. They balance recognition of service in the British Armed forces towards naturalisation with preventing its use as an improper method of entry into the UK.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1580W, on armed forces: housing, how many of the extra 30,000 single living accommodation bed-spaces planned by 2013 he expects to be *(a)* new and *(b)* improved bed-spaces. [183622]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Ministry of Defence has a target to upgrade 30,000 single living accommodation (SLA) bed-spaces to the top condition grade (grade 1) by 2013 and for budgeting purposes, it is assumed that these bed-spaces will be new build. However, existing SLA may be upgraded to grade 1 standard where it is more economic to do so.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* net paybill cost and *(b)* net percentage increase to the paybill was of implementing the Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendations in each financial year from 1996-97 to 2007-08. [180299]

Derek Twigg: Figures showing the net pay-bill costs and the net percentage increases arising from the implementation of the recommendations of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) for the years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

	Net pay bill cost increase (£ million)	*Net pay bill percentage increase (percentage)*
1999-2000	202,000	3.50
2000-01	260,000	4.60
2001-02	221,686	3.73
2002-03	236.347	3.94
2003-04	266,000	4.30
2004-05	194,985	2.89
2005-06	216.056	3.10
2006-07	207.924	2.99
2007-08	274.681	3.90

The figures represent cost estimates which were produced annually to inform the deliberations of the AFPRB. They cover pay, specialist pay, those allowances that fall within the remit of the AFPRB, charges, employers' national insurance contributions and superannuation charges adjusted for past experience. The figures are net, taking into account the effects of increased receipts from food and accommodation charges. The figures do not take account of other changes to the armed forces' pay bill arising from such factors as incremental progression and promotion.

Corresponding net pay bill figures for the implementation of the armed forces' pay award, for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99, have not been retained.

Armed Forces: Psychology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on recruitment and retention of psychologists for the armed forces of not having practitioners in uniform; [182405]

(2) how the UK's policy on uniformed psychologists in the armed forces compares with that of other NATO countries. [182406]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Services employ uniformed military psychiatrists and mental health nurses. We currently assess that there is no requirement to employ uniformed clinical psychologists. In operational theatres, we deploy highly skilled and experienced uniformed mental health nurses to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel.

We employ civilian clinical psychologists as integral components of the mental health multi-disciplinary teams in our military Departments of Community Mental Health. They have a vital role in providing tertiary care for referred patients, supervision for other team members, and in the development of the service.

It is not considered that there is a detrimental effect on recruiting and retention of not having practitioners in uniform but we always keep those matters under review.

The MOD maintains an awareness of the practices and policies of allied nations, many of whom do employ uniformed clinical psychologists but most of whom, unlike the UK, do not have an experienced cadre of mental health nurses.

Defence

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned closure dates are for the UK defence sections in posts in *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Croatia, *(c)* Guatemala, *(d)* Iceland, *(e)* Macedonia, *(f)* Slovakia and *(g)* Thailand. [183380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence sections in Albania, Croatia, Guatemala, Macedonia and Thailand will have closed officially by 1 April 2008. Some support staff will remain beyond this date in order to close accounts and dispose of equipment and vehicles. The Defence sections in Ireland and Slovakia closed on 26 and 31 October 2007 respectively. There is no Defence section in Iceland.

Defence Manufacturers Association

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many events organised by the Defence Manufacturers' Association have been attended by *(a)* him and *(b)* officials from his Department or Defence Equipment and Support in the last 12 months; and what the purpose was of such meetings. [174784]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records show that Defence Ministers have attended the following events organised by the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA) over the past 12 months:

Date	*Event*	*Defence Minister*
16 May 2007	DMA Annual Reception	Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
13 September 2007	DSEi Exhibition	Minister for the Armed Forces
13 September 2007	DMA/DSEi dinner	Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
29 October 2007	DMA/DE and S industry day	Minister for Defence Equipment and Support
18 December 2007	Meeting with DMA chairman at MOD	Minister for Defence Equipment and Support

Information about officials attending DMA organised events is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what audits his Department and its agencies carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176484]

Derek Twigg: Between 2001 and 2007, 45 audits have been carried out in accordance with HM Treasury Government Internal Audit Standards. Information relating to years before 2001-02 is not held centrally and could be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Future Large Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the projected in-service date was for the A400m aircraft in each year since 1997; [183128]

(2) what the in-service date is for the A400m. [183129]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The projected in-service date for A400M aircraft, as one of the MOD's highest value projects, is published annually in the Major Projects Report. At project approval in May 2000, the approved in-service date was December 2009. The projected in-service date was revised in March 2003 to March 2011 due to delay in contract activation. We are currently reassessing the projected in-service date in light of industry's recent announcement that the programme is running six months late with additional risk of a further six months' delay.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to change the number of Ministry of Defence Guarding Agency officers. [182319]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS) is the uniformed, unarmed element forming part of the larger Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency. The complement for MGS Officers in 2008 is 4146. Security at MOD establishments is kept under constant review and future numbers will reflect the security requirements of the Department.

NATO: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what NATO's total common founding budget was in each of the last 10 years. [177541]

Des Browne: NATO's total common-funded budget for 1998 to 2007 was as follows:

NATO military budget, security investment programme (NSIP), and civil budget expenditure 1998 to 2007

£ million

NATO Common fund	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
Military budget[1]	625.6	653.0	717.6	709.3	749.0	761.4	788.6	855.3	960.2	1030.0
NSIP[1]	410.6	582.0	678.6	546.3	731.4	678.7	652.1	606.7	582.1	640.0
Civil budget[2]	144.9	148.6	150.7	155.0	167.0	170.4	171.6	175.9	181.1	186.1
Total	1,181.1	1,383.6	1,546.9	1,410.6	1,647.4	1,610.5	1,612.3	1,637.9	1,723.4	1,856.1

[1] Actual expenditure
[2] Approved budgets
[3] Estimate

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the review of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [181514]

Jonathan Shaw: The 2007 comprehensive spending review confirmed the continuation of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund over the three financial years from 1 April 2008. DEFRA issued a consultation on the future priorities for, and delivery of, the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund on 30 January.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was paid by the Single Farm Payments Scheme to those individuals on the scheme who received £150,000 or more in each year for which figures are available; [182934]

(2) how many individuals received £150,000 or more from the Single Farm Payments Scheme in each year for which figures are available. [182935]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The Single Payment Scheme (SPS) 2005 and 2006 payments to individuals who received £150,000 or more are reflected in the table.

SPS 2007 payments are still being made and RPA cannot provide equivalent figures at this stage.

	Individuals	*Total amount (£)*
SPS 2005	674	169,312,099
SPS 2006	624	156,890,485

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182445]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In 2006 and 2007, core-DEFRA did not produce physical Christmas cards opting instead for a selection of e-greetings cards chosen following an internal design competition and made available for all staff to use. Accordingly, no postage costs were incurred.

Farms: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms closed in Norfolk in each of the last five years. [182101]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of holdings is collected in the annual June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. Information is not collated on the number of holdings closing. The following figures show the number of registered holdings at June each year. These figures show net change only and therefore include gains as well as losses.

	Total holdings in Norfolk
2002	6,511
2003	6,589
2004	6,751
2005	6,783
2006	6,658

Notes:
1 Estimates are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.
2. Register improvement exercises, animal health requirements and the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 have led to an increase in the number of holdings registered.
3. While in the majority of cases a farm holding equates to a farm business some farm businesses are made up of more than one holding.
4. Changes can occur in the ownership and status of the holding which may not necessarily be reflected in the above figures.
5. Information on the de-registration of VAT registered holdings is available from the Office for National Statistics.
Source:
June Survey of Agriculture

Food Supply: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the future development of a common EU food security policy, with particular reference to issues of security of supply. [181711]

Jonathan Shaw: I am not aware of any plans for a future common EU food security policy. Food security has many components, including the stability and resilience of supply; the ability of the food system to withstand disruptions; food safety; nutrition and quality; and affordability. The EU has a role to play in relation to several aspects such as food safety, trade policy and agricultural policy.

What matters to security of supply is effective risk management, security of energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources, a strong food chain and infrastructure and the capacity and contingency planning to deal with specific risks. Improved trading relationships, based on more open international markets will help facilitate these.

Marine Management Organisation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the responsibilities of the proposed marine management organisation in relation to integrated marine spatial planning on offshore wind farms. [178589]

Jonathan Shaw: We will delegate responsibility for preparing marine plans to the proposed marine management organisation. These marine plans will reflect our objectives on offshore wind energy generation as set out in the proposed marine policy statement and relevant national policy statements.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have taken place under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since its introduction. [178598]

Joan Ruddock: The number of defendants proceeded against for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in England and Wales from 1992 to 2006 is shown in the attached table.

	Proceeded against
1992	62
1993	60
1994	50
1995	48
1996	37
1997	51
1998	25
1999	60
2000	44
2001	48
2002	47
2003	30
2004	34
2005	39
2006	22

Note:
These figures are on the principal offence basis.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with officials in the Welsh Assembly Government on the devolution of powers consequent on the passage of the proposed Marine Bill; what the date was of the last meeting on the subject; and what matters were discussed; [181118]

(2) what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with officials in the Scottish Executive on the devolution of powers consequent on the passage of the proposed Marine Bill; what the date was of the last meeting on the subject; and what matters were discussed. [181119]

Jonathan Shaw: In coming to a view on legislation, the Government works closely with the devolved Administrations. My officials are in contact and meet regularly with counterparts in the devolved Administrations to discuss marine issues including the Marine Bill. Discussions cover the full range of policy areas set out in the Marine Bill White Paper.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1497W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, what action is proposed in relation to householders who do not pay the charges for waste collection. [178691]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1497W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs over what period revenue neutrality in relation to charges for the collection of household rubbish will be calculated. [183277]

Joan Ruddock: As stated in the Climate Change Bill, local authorities will have to meet the requirement for revenue neutrality from year to year, and taking one year with another. We plan to work with stakeholders to provide further advice on this in guidance.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a waste collection authority will be able to participate in a household waste charging pilot scheme where the waste disposal authority does not wish to. [183278]

Joan Ruddock: Pilot waste incentive schemes would need to be designated by the Secretary of State. We would expect a waste collection authority coming forward as a pilot to be able to demonstrate a good working relationship with its disposal authority. This relationship will underpin a successful pilot.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely maximum amount to be charged per year under proposals for a household waste charging scheme; what powers he plans to take to cap the charge; and at what level. [183279]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Waste Disposal: Incinerators

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to consult local authorities on the implications for incineration waste disposal costs of reclassification of bottom ash as hazardous waste; [182127]

(2) what considerations he has given to the merits of reclassifying bottom ash from incinerators as hazardous waste; [182128]

(3) what discussions his Department has held with other EU governments on the classification of bottom ash waste from incinerators. [182129]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: Revisions to the approved supply list (ASL) (version 8) introduced an ecotoxic classification for zinc oxide, one of the substances which is likely to be present in incinerator bottom ash (IBA). Zinc substances now need to be considered, in addition to lead and other ecotoxic heavy metals, when classifying and disposing of this kind of waste.

Since there is the potential for potentially ecotoxic metal substances in incinerator bottom ash (IBA) to exist in non-ecotoxic form, I understand that the waste industry is currently developing a protocol for ecotoxicity testing of IBA.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency both consider that the classification of IBA will remain non-hazardous pending the results of direct testing, which is being carried out as part of this work.

DEFRA has not discussed the classification of IBA with other member states.

Waste Management

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* Business Resource Efficiency and Waste and *(b)* Envirowise programmes in helping industry improve resource efficiency. [178612]

Joan Ruddock: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme was set up to return £284 million raised from landfill tax back to businesses between 2005 and 2008 to improve their resource efficiency and to minimise the levels of waste that are unnecessarily sent to landfill.

Evaluation results for 2005-06, which are conservative, indicate that BREW saved businesses nearly £88 million and increased their sales by over £14 million. There were also reductions in water use, waste sent to landfill and the amounts of raw materials used by businesses. Many of the benefits will be seen beyond 2005-06. Work is currently under way to assess the impact of programme spending in 2006-07.

The Envirowise Programme is a key component of the overarching BREW programme. Envirowise aims to stimulate business to reduce their costs through reducing the amount of waste they produce.

Impact Evaluation results for the calendar year 2006 indicate that £85 million was saved by business from direct use of Envirowise. This figure is conservative and accounts only for savings that would not have been made without Envirowise. The savings figure is much greater when including companies who consider themselves to have been assisted by Envirowise. There have also been large reductions in water use and use of raw materials from business using the programme.

Waste Management: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has provided to the *(a)* Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme and *(b)* Envirowise programme in each of the last three years; how much funding is proposed to be allocated for each programme over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [178611]

Joan Ruddock: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme was set up to return £284 million raised from landfill tax back to businesses between 2005 and 2008 through resource efficiency and waste projects. Funds are awarded to a number of regional and national BREW delivery bodies, including Envirowise.

Funding allocated to BREW for each of the last three years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-2006	33
2006-2007	[1]102.733
2007-2008 (forecast)	[2]148.267

[1] With £18.318 million transferred to other business resource efficiency activities funded by DEFRA

[2] With £25.267 million transferred to other business resource efficiency activities funded by DEFRA

These figures are subject to change, since actual spending could vary slightly from the forecast for 2007-08.

Funding allocations to Envirowise for each of the last three years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-2006	12
2006-2007	16.772
2008-2008	22.19

Subsequent funding of the BREW programme will be subject to future spending decisions, which will be carefully balanced with other departmental priorities in tackling waste and climate change.

Whales: Japan

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to call upon the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to examine the compliance of the Japanese whaling industry with the provisions of the Convention. [178742]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the recent announcement that Japan intended to take 50 Humpback whales in the southern ocean as part of its JARPA II whaling programme, the UK Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority wrote to the CITES Secretariat asking for clarification on the legal position. We have drawn the contents of the reply to the attention of the EU CITES Management Committee, which will consider it at its next meeting in April.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ask the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to investigate the legality of Japanese whaling under the convention. [183330]

Jonath[illegible] Shaw *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Following the recent announcement that Japan intended to take 50 Humpback whales in the southern ocean as part of its JARPA II whaling programme, the UK Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority wrote to the CITES Secretariat asking for clarification on the legal position. We have drawn the contents of the reply to the attention of the EU CITES Management Committee, which will consider it at its next meeting in April.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will seek to place the recent report by a panel of independent legal experts on the legality of the Japanese whaling industry on the agenda of the annual meeting of the International Whaling Congress in Santiago in June 2008 for consideration by the parties; [183470]

(2) what representations he has received on the legality of the Japanese whaling industry; what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on this subject; and what plans he has to raise this matter with the (i) Japanese government and (ii) International Whaling Commission. [178811]

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Australian government on potential legal action against Japanese whaling activities in the Southern Ocean; and if he will make a statement. [178894]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is aware of the recent report commissioned by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) which questioned the legality of Japan's whaling under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Following the recent announcement that Japan intended to take 50 humpback whales in the Southern Ocean as part of its JARPA II whaling programme, the UK CITES Management Authority wrote to the CITES Secretariat asking for clarification on the legal position. We have drawn the contents of their reply to the attention of the EU CITES Management Committee, which will consider it at its next meeting in April. Japan subsequently announced it will not target humpbacks, but will still target minke and endangered fin whales.

DEFRA has also received representations from Greenpeace UK and IFAW about the legality of Japanese whaling under CITES. A number of hon. Members have also made representations in support of IFAW's position.

We will continue our efforts, along with other countries, to urge Japan to reconsider their position on whaling. In the build up to the annual International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Chile (IWC60) and in discussion with other like-minded anti-whaling countries, we will consider all reports and options, including all legal avenues available.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the legality of Japanese whaling under the convention on international trade in endangered species; and if he will make a statement. [183483]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* DEFRA has received representations from Greenpeace UK and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) about the legality of Japanese whaling under the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES). A number of MPs have also made representations in support of IFAW's position.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Andrei Lugovoi: Extradition

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at meetings of the Council of Ministers on *(a)* the European Union response to the murder of Alexander Litvinenko and *(b)* the refusal of the Russian authorities to extradite Andrei Lugovoi; and if he will make a statement. [182189]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* We have been working at all levels with our partners in the EU to maintain EU pressure on Russia to ensure Andrei Lugovoi faces charges in connection with the assassination of Alexander Litvinenko in the UK. Our EU partners support our view that this is an issue which needs to be pursued within the framework of the EU's relations with Russia. We continue to demand that Lugovoi should stand trial in the UK. We have made clear to partners that Lugovoi remains charged with murder in the UK and is liable to prosecution here.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his statement of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-22, undertook to keep the House informed of any significant development in this case.

Arms Trade

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government collates on the activities of individual arms dealers, with particular reference to those who are reported to have *(a)* broken UN sanctions and *(b)* supplied countries where UK armed forces are operating. [183628]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Export Control Organisation at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is the licensing authority for strategic exports in the UK. It sets out the regulatory framework under which licence applications are considered, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform takes the formal decision to issue or refuse export licences or refuse export licence applications in accordance with the appropriate legislation and announced policy. Information about arms brokers who have had their proposed export licence application either refused or revoked is shared with HM Revenue and Customs and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office to ensure that the decision is enforced. Where the Government receives information that an exporter has attempted to circumvent export control rules, the relevant Government departments and agencies will take action. For example, the arms broker John Knight was recently jailed for four years for breaching export controls relating to a brokered transaction between Kuwait and Iraq. This case illustrates that the legislation introduced under the Trade in Goods (Control) Order 2004 is making an impact.

The UK has one of the most rigorous and transparent export licensing regimes in the world. All licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against "The Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria". The criteria cover in detail how we assess each case. Specifically criterion 5b states: "the risk of the goods concerned being used against UK forces". If there appears to any risk of this being the case, a licence will not be issued.

Cyprus

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 851W, on Cyprus, if he will place in the Library the full itinerary of the visit to Cyprus by the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus, the hon. Member for Enfield, North, in October 2007. [180430]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) visited Cyprus from 1 to 4 October 2007, in her capacity as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Cyprus. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 850-851W for details of her programme.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 851W, on Cyprus, if he will list the *(a)* date, *(b)* venue and *(c)* people attending each meeting in the UK attended by the hon. Member for Enfield, North in her official capacity as the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus. [180431]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In her capacity as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Cyprus, my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) holds regular meetings in the UK with representatives of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, other interested parties, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and Ministers.

Departmental Email

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179469]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) actively encourages staff to minimise the environmental impact of printing e-mails through advice to delete any unnecessary text, to use duplex printing wherever possible and to print several pages per side of paper. A prepared message, prompting e-mail recipients to consider the necessity of printing, is available for inclusion as a part of staff e-mail signature blocks.

In the slightly longer term, the reduced distribution of printers attached to the FCO's new desktop IT system will provide a practical means of discouraging casual printing of documents, including e-mails.

European Union: Exhibitions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the cost of EU pavilions at international events. [181768]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information on the cost of EU pavilions at international events.

Georgia: Elections

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conduct of the recent presidential elections in Georgia. [183460]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government accept the assessment of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), led by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). On 6 January, the IEOM reported in their preliminary findings that the election process

> "was in essence consistent with most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections, [but] significant challenges were revealed which need to be addressed urgently."

The final assessment of the election, which has not yet been issued, depends, in part, on the conduct of the concluding stages of the election process, including the tabulation and announcement of final results and the handling of possible post-election day complaints or appeals. The indications from the OSCE/ODIHR post-election interim report of 18 January are that there were a number of problems in these areas. The OSCE/ODIHR will issue a comprehensive final report in the coming weeks.

We, and our EU partners, have urged Georgia to take all necessary steps to address the identified shortcomings in order to ensure successful parliamentary elections later this year. As I said in a public statement on the elections on 7 January, Georgia needs to do more to reinforce the independence of state institutions in a political campaign environment and to strengthen the freedom and pluralism of the media, as well as the independence of the judiciary.

Iraq: Oil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Iraq's contribution to total world oil pollution; and if he will make a statement. [183619]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have not made any recent assessment of Iraq's contribution to total world oil pollution.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training the civilian police in UNAMID have received in dealing with gender issues such as rape; and if he will make a statement. [183365]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The 1,400 civilian police currently in Darfur as part of the African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) were transferred from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). They received training from EU police advisers working with AMIS, which included training on community policing and gender-based violence.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations is currently preparing pre-deployment training for extra officers to bring UN AMID's police component up to 6,500 officers. Their training will be discussed at a meeting in Accra in February, at which the UK will press for gender issues to be covered.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set out how the £400 million committed during the next three years by his Department, the Department for International Development and the British Council to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas as announced by the Prime Minister in his statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 668W, on national security, is to be spent. [183578]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) gave to him on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 347-48W: that the Government will report back on action overseas with other countries to counter extremism when we launch the full national security strategy.

Turkmenistan: Human Rights

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Turkmenistan since the death of Saparmurat Niazov in December 2006; and if he will make a statement. [178744]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since the death of President Niyazov in December 2006 and the election of President Berdimuhamedov in February 2007, there has been some positive progress on human rights. There has been a greater willingness by Turkmenistan to engage on human rights issues with international organisations, including the EU, UN and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Louise Arbour, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, visited Turkmenistan in April 2007 and there is an outstanding invitation to the UN Rapporteur on Religious Freedom to visit. The EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Pierre Morel, and Javier Solana, High Representative for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, discussed human rights with president Berdimuhamedov on several occasions in 2007, including during Berdimuhamedov's visit to Brussels in November 2007. The first EU-Turkmenistan ad hoc dialogue on human rights took place in Brussels in September 2007. The Minister for Energy, my hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) raised human rights concerns during his visit to Turkmenistan in September 2007.

In August 2007, President Berdimuhamedov pardoned and released from prison a number of individuals who had been detained following the coup attempt on President

Niyazov in 2002. These included Nasrullah Ibn Ibadullah, the former Chief Mufti. The UK has regularly lobbied for Ibadullah's release, bilaterally and jointly with EU partners, most recently the week before he was pardoned. Internal freedom of movement has improved. Checkpoints and roadblocks have been removed and it is easier for Turkmen citizens to travel to border areas. In contrast to previous practice, the new president has asked the international community to provide scholarships for young citizens of Turkmenistan to study abroad and has publicly encouraged young people to take up these opportunities.

However, there remains a long way to go. The education system will need time to recover from years of neglect under President Niyazov. There is still no press freedom and no freedom of expression. President Berdimuhamedov has recently made statements criticising the quality of the media, but it is too early to say if this means any relaxation of controls on the media. There is only one political party, and religion and civil society are tightly controlled. Non-governmental organisations registration remains a lengthy and complex process and the Government has not yet addressed this issue.

The UK will continue to urge Turkmenistan to address human rights issues and will support genuine efforts to do so, both bilaterally and with international partners. We will continue to work through the EU-Turkmenistan ad hoc Dialogue on Human Rights and through the EU's Central Asia Strategy, which has as one of its main themes the support for good governance, rule of law and human rights.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2008 Annual Human Rights Report will contain further analysis of the human rights situation in Turkmenistan.

HEALTH

Abortion: Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files are held by his Department on the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill of Session 1986-87; and if he will make a statement. [182667]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2066W.

Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which alcohol is being sold at a price lower than the cost of duty payable on it. [182816]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned an independent review, currently under way, to be carried out by a research team from the University of Sheffield, of the evidence on how and in what circumstance price and promotion—including discounting, price-based promotions and advertising—drive consumption of alcohol and harms from alcohol. The review will report in summer 2008. Following this the Government will consider the need for action, including regulatory change, and consult publicly on any proposals.

Blood: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set for blood donation; and what performance has been against those targets in the last period for which figures are available. [181833]

Dawn Primarolo: As of 20 January 2008, actual collections for this financial year stood at 1,531,900 units against a planned target of 1,548,300 units for this period. However, the National Blood Service continues to meet hospital demand for blood, currently fulfilling 99·97 per cent. of demand.

Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment Lord Darzi made of the role of carers in his research for his report on the NHS. [181832]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service 'Our NHS, our future' Next Stage Review is primarily a local process. Eight clinical pathway groups in each strategic health authority region are considering how to improve personalisation in each pathway. They are doing this in partnership with patients, carers and their advocates. National working groups have been set up to consider the emerging issues which will require action at a national level, including primary and community care strategy.

The national working groups will look closely at what the local clinical working groups tell them are the enablers and barriers to change and will seek input from wider stakeholder organisations, including those representing carers. This national work will, along with the work of the local clinical working groups, form the basis of Lord Darzi's final report in June on the future of the NHS in England.

The review of the Prime Minister's carers strategy has involved a wide-ranging consultation of carers—both online—through an 'ideas tree', and through local and regional events. In addition, four deliberative events for 240 carers, including young carers, have enabled further discussion on the emerging themes from the consultation. Reports from the consultation and the deliberative events are being fed into the 'Our NHS, our future' Next Stage Review.

Confectionery

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that supermarkets provide clear labelling of confectionery products containing liqueurs. [183478]

Dawn Primarolo: Food labelling rules agreed at European Union level and implemented nationally by the United Kingdom Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) already require food businesses, including supermarkets to clearly list ingredients on the labelling of pre-packed food. Therefore pre-packed confectionery products containing liqueurs would need to indicate the presence of alcohol.

Food law enforcement is the responsibility of local authority trading standards.

Darzi Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many civil servants are employed on Lord Darzi's review of the future of the NHS; [180335]

(2) when he expects to publish Lord Darzi's final report on the future of the NHS. [180336]

Ann Keen: The national health service Next Stage Review is core business for all civil servants in the Department. The final report will be published in June.

Drugs: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what facilities exist for the treatment and rehabilitation of those on addictive drugs in *(a)* the county of Durham and *(b)* Easington constituency. [182660]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held centrally but can instead be obtained from the County Durham Primary Care Trust.

Hearing Impaired

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in the incidence of hearing loss in the adult population in the last 10 years. [178756]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made no assessments of the trends in the incidence of hearing loss in the adult population in the last 10 years.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the additional £270 million that he has allocated to tackle healthcare associated infections by 2010-11 will be available in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [179117]

Ann Keen: The Department will provide £80 million in funding in 2008-09, £200 million in 2010-11 and £270 million in 2010-11, a total of £550 million of additional funding over three years, to support the strategy to improve infection prevention and control and improve cleanliness in the national health service.

For elements of the strategy which require local investments by a primary care trust (PCTs) or trusts, the funding will be reflected in future PCT allocations and tariff uplifts. PCT allocations and the national tariff have been issued for 2008-09 and will be issued for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in due course.

Hospitals: Standards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking in relation to hospitals which are not meeting the Government's core standards on the care of older patients. [177052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service organisations are expected to adhere to core standards in their treatment of all patients, as assessed by the Healthcare Commission (HCC). When the HCC find that services are not meeting core standards, it may refer serious failure to the Secretary of State (or for foundation trusts, Monitor) with a recommendation that special measures may be taken. This option is rarely exercised because trust managers and, where appropriate, the strategic health authority (SHA) are expected to act as soon as a failure to reach a core standard is recognised.

75 per cent. of all inpatients are older people. Many elderly patients find mixed sex accommodation distressing as it reduces their privacy. The 2008-09 Operating Framework sets out an expectation that primary care trusts (PCTs), which are responsible for working with healthcare providers to agree and implement plans for improving services, will set stretching local plans for improvement in performance in reducing mixed sex accommodation. The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement published guidance in December 2007 to help NHS healthcare providers adhere to the requirements of their local PCTs. The guidance clarifies that single-sex accommodation can be provided in single-sex wards, single rooms with adjacent single-sex toilet and washing facilities (preferably en-suite), or single-sex bays within mixed wards.

Where patient survey scores are available, monitoring should be based on seeking specific improvements in these scores in the next survey. SHAs are responsible for the assurance of these processes and for the performance management of NHS trusts.

Obesity

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1499, on obesity, how healthy towns will be selected; and what process towns will have to follow to apply for designation as healthy towns. [182951]

Dawn Primarolo: The criteria and process for towns to apply for designation to become healthy towns are being developed by the Department of Health, Children, Schools and Families and Communities and Local Government, and will be announced in due course.

Prescriptions: Income

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was received in prescription charges for drugs prescribed for *(a)* cancer, *(b)* cystic fibrosis, *(c)* Parkinson's Disease, *(d)* asthma patients and *(e)* colitis and Crohn's Disease patients in 2006-07. [182890]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held in the format requested.

Smoking

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on what progress has been made with the Choosing Health White Paper including the delivery of alternative routes and the expansion of choice available to smokers. [183151]

Dawn Primarolo: Smokers who want to quit with the support of the national health service now have a wide range of options available. There are over 150 local NHS Stop Smoking Services across England that offer a range of free services in different settings. Stop smoking pharmaceutical aids, including nicotine replacement therapy, are available in many different formats on prescription and can be accessed by young smokers. Smokers can also quit with free support from the NHS Smoking Helpline and Together Programme which provide information, advice and motivation by telephone, email, post or by text message at key moments during the smoker's quitting process. The NHS Pregnancy Smoking Helpline and the Asian Tobacco Helpline are also in operation. The NHS makes a wide range of printed materials available on quitting smoking, and the NHS Go Smokefree website at www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree has information and tools to support smokers to quit, and the location of NHS Stop Smoking Services across England.

While the United Kingdom is recognised as a world leader in the provision of stop smoking support, the Department closely monitors international developments in this area. Pilot projects are planned for 2008 to develop new forms of NHS support for smokers who want to quit.

Tranquilisers: Rehabilitation

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many involuntary tranquiliser addicts have been successfully withdrawn by NHS treatment in each year since 1998. [183072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The information requested is not available.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent through *(a)* Aimhigher, *(b)* bursaries paid out by universities from fee income, *(c)* the higher education funding councils and *(d)* other public spending on widening access to university in each year since 2001. [182645]

Bill Rammell: This Government remain fully committed to widening access to higher education for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Widening access requires long term investment and change across the higher education system. We have reformed student finance, reintroducing grants and raising the income threshold at which repayments start. No one is required to pay a contribution to their higher education up-front. These reforms, together with Aimhigher, have been instrumental in bringing about progress. The proportion of UK domiciled, young, full time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio-economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002/03 to 29.1 per cent. in 2005/06.

Expenditure from 2001-02 to date on widening access is as follows:

£ million

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aimhigher and predecessors[1] [2]	50	69.5	120	136	102	87	80
Regional Projects[3]	5	5					
Student support[4]	1,213	1,096	1,064	1,195	1,405	1,622	1,887
Widening participation allocation[5]	37	48	266	273	284	345	356
University bursaries and outreach[6]	—	—	—	—	—	116	Not yet available
Total[7]	1,295	1,208.5	1,460	1,604	1,791	2,170	2,323

[1] The unified Aimhigher programme was introduced in 2004. Predecessor programmes were Excellence Challenge, funded by the then Department for Education and Skills, and Partnerships for Progression, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Aimhigher is funded jointly by DIUS, HEFCE, the LSC and the Department of Health.

[2] Excellence Challenge included Opportunity Bursaries. These were grants to eligible people from lower income families and were worth £2,000 over three years. From September 2001, 26,000 such bursaries were made available at a total cost of £37 million. With the wider reintroduction of grants in 2006, the Opportunity Bursary scheme was withdrawn.

[3] Funded by HEFCE.

[4] Includes student loans RAB charge, fee loans, student support grants, Maintenance Grant, HE Grant, grants for vulnerable students, tuition fee grants, grants for part-time students and access funds and bursaries. The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans.

[5] These figures also include the allocation to widen access and improve provision for disabled students.

[6] The Office for Fair Access forecasts that around £300 million annually will be spent by higher education providers on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from low-income and other under-represented groups by the academic year 2008/09.

[7] In 2001-04, Aimhigher contributed £10 million a year towards the widening participation allocation. The figure given as the total for each of these years is therefore less than the sum of the parts to avoid double counting.

Students: Autism

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people under 25 years with autism or Asperger's syndrome are currently studying in universities. [180093]

Bill Rammell: In the 2006/07 academic year, 650 students under the age of 25 at Higher Education Institutions in England reported that they had Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Autistic Spectrum Disorder includes Asperger's syndrome. Information separating Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome is not held centrally. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commission for Africa

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of whether the Government are on course to implement the recommendations made by the Commission for Africa for which it is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [181743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Many of the recommendations of the Commission for Africa (CfA) were taken up by the G8 at Gleneagles and agreed as collective commitments, including on peace and security, good governance, human development, cancelling debt and promoting growth. To mark the first anniversary of the launch of the CfA report the Government published a detailed report on the UK's contribution to taking forward the Commission's recommendations and ensuring that the other G8 countries deliver on their Gleneagles commitments. The report was deposited in the Library of both Houses on 9 March 2006.

I made a written statement to the House on the Gleneagles commitments on 25 October 2007 (http://www.dfid.gov.uk/g8/alexander-statement.pdf). This showed good progress by the international community on the majority of milestones the UK Government identified as important for the period December 2006 to July 2007, in particular new funding for health, education and infrastructure. The UK has substantially increased its own aid to underpin these efforts: DFID's bilateral spending in Africa for 2007-08 is expected to reach £1.25 billion, up from £850 million in 2004-05.

Ethiopia: Money

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency transactions over the value of £25,000 were made by his Department where pounds sterling were changed into local currency in Ethiopia between 1 January and 30 June 2007. [178631]

Gillian Merron: The following transactions were made:

	Value (£)	*Exchange rate*	*Commission paid (£)*
17 January 2007	250,626.57	17.2643	626.57
23 March 2007	200,000.00	17.3585	500.00
15 May 2007	250,626.57	17.6823	626.57

Ghana: Money

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency exchanges over the value of £25,000 from sterling to the local currency in Ghana have been made by his Department in the last six months. [183209]

Gillian Merron: In the last six months DFID Ghana has made the following transfers from sterling into Ghana new cedis:

	Value (£)
7 August 2007	100,000
13 September 2007	125,000
5 November 2007	170,000
12 December 2007	83,000
9 January 2008	100,000

International Assistance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards achieving Millennium Development Goal number 2; and what steps he plans to take to encourage further progress. [183836]

Gillian Merron: Global enrolment in primary education has increased from 647 million in 1999 to 688 million in 2005.

In April 2006, the UK Government committed £8.5 billion over 10 years to help achieve the education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The bulk of this support will help poor countries in Africa and Asia to develop and implement long-term education sector plans to achieve the education MDGs. At the 2007 G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, the G8 countries reaffirmed that no country seriously committed to Education for All will be thwarted in their achievement of this goal by lack of resources. We will continue to urge our G8 partners and other donors to meet their promises on education, and also seek accelerated action to meet all of the MDGs through the MDG Call to Action, jointly launched last July by the Prime Minister and the United Nations Secretary-General.

Mozambique: Money

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency transactions over the value of £25,000 have been made by his Department where pounds sterling were changed into local currency in Mozambique in the last six months. [178632]

Gillian Merron: The following sterling amounts were changed into Mozambican Meticais over the period 1 August 2007 to 31 January 2008:

Date	*Value (£)*
16 August 2007	30,136.40
5 September 2007	39,798.04
1 October 2007	29,450.04
19 October 2007	39,093.97
12 November 2007	28,698.14
28 November 2007	29,303.91
9 January 2008	30,404.22

Tuvalu: Floods

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account he has taken of evidence that possible inundation of the Pacific island of Tuvalu may be caused by *(a)* rising sea level and *(b)* sinking of the earth's crust in allocating UK aid to that area. [178734]

Mr. Malik: DFID has not had a bilateral aid programme in the Pacific since 2001. The UK provides assistance to the region through the European Commission's European Development Fund (EDF). €5 million has been earmarked for Tuvalu under the 10th EDF, which is due to begin this year and end in 2013. The UK's share of the 10th EDF is 14.82 per cent. The European Commission recognises climate change is an important cross-cutting issue for the small islands of the Pacific region, and major regional initiatives to address it are being considered in the context of the 10th EDF.

Uganda: Money

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what currency transactions over the value of £25,000 have been made by his Department where pounds sterling were changed into local currency in Uganda in the last six months. [178630]

Gillian Merron: Over the past six months the DFID Uganda office has made four transactions above the value of £25,000 where money, received in Uganda in US dollars from the Department's headquarters in the UK, was converted to Uganda shillings in-country.

	US dollars ($) transformed to shillings	*Equivalent in £*	*Exchange rate ($ to shs)*	*Commission*[1]
August	200,000	98,080.01	1,650	0
September	200,000	99,642.31	1,755	0
October	200,000	97,148	1,727	0
November	300,000	143,929.2	1,675	0

[1] DFID Uganda has negotiated with its bankers not to charge commission on any of its transactions as we do not receive interest from the money in its accounts.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182441]

Maria Eagle: 2007 was the first year that an MOJ Christmas card had been produced by our print room. Pursuant to PQ 176917, 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 136-37W, and PQ 171443, 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 176-77W, 6,000 had been ordered at a cost of 34p each, totalling £2,040. These cards were not centrally funded, and each business area covered the costs of the cards they ordered from their stationery budgets.

Prior to 2007, cards were not centrally ordered or produced. The expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to ascertain the specific postage costs relating to these Christmas cards, as all postage is accounted for as a whole, rather than broken down into separate components.

The Department has a general policy where all post is sent out second class unless it is stated otherwise.

Harassment Act 1997

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2202W, on the Harassment Act 1997, how many prosecutions were brought by *(a)* local authorities against individuals and *(b)* individuals against local authorities in each year since the Act entered into force. [183919]

Maria Eagle: I will respond to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 7 December 2007 on the policy on criminal appeals. [183429]

Maria Eagle: I wrote to the hon. Member on 31 January 2008. I apologise for the delay.

Offensive Weapons: Bail

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has issued guidance on the granting of bail to a person charged with possessing a knife in a public place. [182742]

Maria Eagle: Whether to grant bail or not is and must remain a decision for the courts to make within the statutory framework provided by Parliament in the Bail Act 1976, taking account of relevant case-law. It is the responsibility of the Government to keep the statutory framework under careful review, bringing proposals for change to Parliament as necessary. We are currently looking at the implications for bail law and procedure of the recent cases involving the offence of murder. If changes are needed we shall make them.

Prison Service: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* prison visitors have been prosecuted for bringing drugs into prison in each of the last five years; how many of those prosecutions have resulted in a conviction; and what the average length was of sentence on conviction; [183869]

(2) how many people have been prosecuted under the Offender Management Act 2007 for bringing *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* alcohol into prisons. [183870]

Maria Eagle: Under current statutes, there are no specific offences covering prison officers and prison visitors bringing drugs into prisons. Offences by this group of people would currently be prosecuted under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Information held by my Department does not identify the circumstances in which offences against the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were prosecuted.

Specific offences covering "Conveyance of prohibited articles into or out of prison" including drugs will come into force in April 2008 as part of the Offender Management Act 2007. The new Act also makes the conveyance of mobile phones into prisons an offence for the first time and maintains the existing offence relating to conveyance of alcohol.

Prisoner Escapes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates *(a)* escaped and *(b)* absconded from each open prison in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [183010]

Maria Eagle: The number of incidents of prisoners absconding or escaping from prisons which have, or had in the past, an open element is shown in the table below for the period 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007.

Prisoners are classed as 'absconders' if they absent themselves from Prison Service custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security restraints such as that provided by fences, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle or handcuffs. Escapes involve circumstances where physical security restraints have been overcome.

Most absconds are from open or semi-open prisons. Those prisons which are fully open, semi-open or have an open element are shown in the tables including some cases where prisons have re-rolled and no longer have an open element. It is possible for a prisoner to escape from an open prison. For example, an incident involving a prisoner who was been held in segregation within an open prison and who then managed to break out and leave the prison would be regarded as an escape rather than an abscond.

Data on escapes and absconds and other performance data are published for all prisons at the following link:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Escapes from open prisons 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007

	Latchmere House	Thorn Cross
1997-98	—	—
1998-99	—	—
1999-2000	—	1
2000-01	1	—
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—
2005-07	—	—

Absconds from open prisons 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007

Establishment	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Askham Grange	35	17	20	21	19	12	31	12	14	7
Blantyre House	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Drake Hall	122	134	94	39	33	—	1	—	—	—
East Sutton Park	5	3	3	3	3	—	1	2	4	2
Ford	53	40	68	57	57	91	142	110	96	62
Grendon/ Springhill	20	9	14	14	12	23	60	36	34	11
Hatfield/ Moorland	77	80	36	34	50	56	68	73	49	41
Hewell Grange	40	17	32	20	15	23	31	24	24	13
Hollesley Bay	13	25	11	24	8	14	36	32	16	21
Kirkham	234	202	171	169	163	208	213	120	74	54
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	—
Latchmere House	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	20	25	34	25	19	33	114	102	66	37
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	[illegible]	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Hall	20	15	23	6	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Sea Camp	25	32	27	24	36	34	79	33	49	48
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	2
Standford Hill	35	36	43	29	37	83	89	39	58	38
Sudbury	81	75	63	69	81	68	75	77	76	78
Thorn Cross	168	135	147	110	135	152	130	90	105	82
Usk/Prescoed	7	13	19	14	5	8	35	19	9	9
Wealstun	48	70	72	105	70	101	144	74	28	46

Prisons

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average spending was per prisoner held in *(a)* all HM Prisons and *(b)* HM Prison Chelmsford in the last period for which figures are available. [183436]

Maria Eagle: The average cost per prisoner for all prisons in 2006-07 was £26,737. The average at HMP Chelmsford was £29,134.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many passive drug dogs are in operation in the Prison Service; where they are deployed; and what the strategic reason is for their deployment; [183866]

(2) what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* annual cost is of (i) training and (ii) operating passive drug detection dogs for use by the Prison Service; [183867]

(3) what the total cost to the Prison Service of the use of passive drug detection dogs has been. [183868]

Mr. Hanson: On 30 January there were a total of 228 passive drug dogs in operation in prisons in England and Wales. The following table shows where they are deployed.

Passive drug dogs are used to assist in the searching for drugs in establishments in accordance with drug strategies set by area managers and governing governors.

Costs are not collated centrally and gathering this information would incur disproportionate costs. However, a Passive Drug Dog team (handler and dog) costs approx £40,000 per annum including training. A dog purchase is around £1,000. Based on an approximate running cost of £40,000 per year, the total cost of 228 dogs is just over £9 million per annum.

High Security Estate	*Number*
Belmarsh	3
Frankland	3
Full Sutton	3
Long Lartin	3
Manchester	3
Wakefield	3
Whitemoor	3
Woodhill	2
North East Area	
Acklington	2
Castington	2
Deerbolt	2
Durham	6
Holme House	2
Low Newton	3
North West Area	
Buckley Hall	2
Garth	2
Haverigg	2
Hindley	2
Kirkham	3
Lancaster	1
Liverpool	2
Preston	2
Risley	3
Styal	2
Thorn Cross	1
Wymott	3
Kennett	3
Yorkshire and Humberside Area	
Yorkshire Area Search Team	11
West Midlands Area	
Birmingham	3
Blakenhurst	7
Brinsford	2
Drake Hall	1
Featherstone	1
Shrewsbury	2
Stafford	2
Stoke Heath	2
Swinfen Hall	2
East Midlands Area	
Ashwell	1
Foston Hall	2
Gartree	2
Glen Parva	3
Leicester	2
Lincoln	2
Morton Hall	0
North Sea Camp	1
Nottingham	2
Onley	3
Ranby	3
Stocken	2
Sudbury	2
Wellingborough	2
Whatton	2
Eastern Area	
Bedford	2
Blundeston	2
Bullwood Hall	1
Chelmsford	3
Edmunds Hill	2
Highpoint	2
Hollesley Bay	1
Littlehey	2
The Mount	2
Norwich	3
Warren Hill	1
Wayland	3
South West Area	
Bristol	2
Channings Wood	2
Dartmoor	2
Dorchester	1
Eastwood Park	2
Erlestoke	1
Exeter	2
Gloucester	1
Guys Marsh	1
Leyhill	1
Portland	1
Shepton Mallet	1
The Verne	1
Wales Area	
Cardiff	0
Swansea	1
South Central Area	
Isle of Wight	5
Aylesbury	1

High Security Estate	*Number*
Bullingdon	2
Coldingley	2
Downview	1
Grendon	1
High Down	1
Huntercombe	0
Kingston	2
Reading	1
Send	0
Winchester	2
Kent and Sussex Area	
Elmley	1
Ford	1
Lewes	1
Maidstone	2
Rochester	1
Standford Hill	0
Swaleside	1
London Area	
Brixton	0
Feltham	2
Holloway	2
Pentonville	2
Wandsworth	2
Wormwood Scrubs	1
Private Prisons	
Altcourse	4
Ashfield	1
Bronzefield	1
Doncaster	2
Dovegate	2
Forest Bank	2
Lowdham Grange	2
Parc	2
Rye Hill	3
The Wolds	0
Peterborough	2
Total	228

Prisons: Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the *(a)* trend in the number of hours of purposeful prisoner activity since April 2007 and *(b)* likely trend from April 2008; what his policy is on purposeful activity; what measures are in place to monitor the (i) provision of opportunities for and (ii) the quantity of purposeful activity in prisons; and whether such activity is a key performance indicator. [178761]

Maria Eagle: During the financial year to December, prisons have reported an average of 25.1 hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week.

From April 2008 a new core day will be introduced and the expectation is that resources will be realigned to maximise availability of work and education.

Provision of purposeful activity opportunities are set at local level and are based on a combination of prisoner need and prisoner status on the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEP) and prison establishment facilities.

Each establishment is set a Key Performance Target (KPT) for purposeful activity. A monitoring system is in place to obtain data on regime activity in each establishment.

Purposeful activity is no longer a Key Performance Indicator but remains an establishment Key Performance Target.

Prisons: Shipping

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to acquire prison ships; how much he has allocated to that purpose; what the timetable is for such provision becoming operational; and how many prison places they will provide. [178767]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice will launch a competition for a prison ship. The current prison building programme, implementing the recommendations published by Lord Carter of Coles on 5 December 2007, assumes that a facility providing over 400 places will be available in late 2009.

Redditch Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of the creation of HMP Redditch, broken down by *(a)* staffing and *(b)* other elements. [178758]

Mr. Hanson: As I announced to the House on 29 January, consultation on the name of the planned merger has been extended to 1 March 2008. Any further comments on wider issues would be welcome.

Following the outcome of the consultation it will be possible to calculate the cost of the exercise. It is expected that the merger will generate cost reductions of £650,000 in 2008-09 and £860,000 in 2009-10, while improving efficiency and effectiveness.

Reoffenders: Costs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of re-offending in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [178766]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no estimates of the overall costs to the economy due to re-offending for each of the last 10 years. However, in 2002 the Government's Social Exclusion Unit estimated the costs of crime committed by ex-prisoners to be around £11 billion.

Royal Mail: Compensation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1765W, how often Royal Mail paid compensation in such cases in each of the last three years. [178803]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally. Each fixed penalty office will encourage the owner of the lost licence to claim the cost of replacement from the Royal Mail. As the compensation cheque is mostly sent to the claimant there is no way of knowing the success rate of the claims.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff of his Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181364]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 502W.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Prime Minister how many external contracts his Office held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183196]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 502W.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [178897]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there have been in (a) the East of England and (b) Suffolk in each of the last five years. (178897)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) the East of England government office region, and (b) Suffolk county from 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1] East of England government office region, and Suffolk county[2] 2002 to 2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

	Area	
	East of England	*Suffolk*
2002	456	48
2003	484	60
2004	485	65
2005	492	56
2006	556	70

Table 1: number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1] East of England government office region, and Suffolk county[2] 2002 to 2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following table.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] All figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179943]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury uses the retail prices index to uprate the payments in respect of the service element of the PFI contract on the 1 Horse Guards road building.

Ethnic Mutual

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Financial Services Authority is taking to remove Ethnic Mutual from its register; and if he will make a statement. [178890]

Angela Eagle: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority. The FSA is required by the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 to publish any suspension of the society's registration.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the number of motorists who (i) cease using their car, (ii) reduce the number of times they use their car and (iii) maintain their driving levels following an increase in fuel duty; and if he will make a statement. [182680]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to achieving a sustainable economy. At Budget 2007, fuel duty rates were announced for the following three financial years, in order to provide certainty to business and consumers. It is estimated that these rates will result in a reduction of 250 million litres of fuel that would otherwise have been purchased by 2011-12, had duty been increased in line with inflation during the period.

This effect is driven by a number of factors—including more efficient driving, a reduction in the number of journeys taken, and an improvement in the efficiency of cars purchased. However, HM Revenue and Customs do not disaggregate these effects when calculating the overall impact of duty increases.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183874]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1552W.

Fair Trade goods continue to be offered to staff and Fair Trade teas and coffees are served at all official meetings.

Financial Services Authority: Resignations

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of Financial Services Authority staff indicated in the most recent staff survey that they were considering leaving the organisation. [183872]

Angela Eagle: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). I have asked the chief executive of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

Metronet: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the implications are, including sums involved, of the Office of National Statistics reclassifying Metronet and Tubelines costs from the private sector to the public sector for National Accounts purposes. [170013]

Angela Eagle: The public sector classification of Metronet and Tubelines was a statistical decision with no impact on the way in which the PPP contracts operate.

Estimates of the impact were set out in the ONS release of 24 September 2007.

National Income: South West Region

Mr. Sand[illegible]s: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added per head of population was for each local authority in the South West Region. [182464]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about gross value added (GVA) per head of population in each local authority in the South West region. (182464)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). NUTS3 data includes local authority level data but do not fully correspond to the local authorities of the United Kingdom. Regional GVA estimates are expressed at current basic prices and do not allow for changes in prices over time (inflation) or differences in regional price levels (purchasing power).

Regional GVA per head can be found in table 3.2 of the link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS3_Excel_Tables_1995-2005.xls

The full range of regional GVA estimates are available on the ONS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

Revenue and Customs: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the Milton Keynes tax office's practice of not issuing receipts for tax returns handed in in person before the 31 January deadline. [184078]

Jane Kennedy: Since 2005 HMRC has adopted a consistent national approach of not issuing receipts for returns handed in to Enquiry Centres. Checking and issuing receipts for returns diverted staff from serving those that need advice and help to complete their forms particularly around the 31 January SA deadline when many hundreds of thousands of tax returns are handed in.

Suicide: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of suicides in Wales in each constituency in each year since 2000, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age; and if he will make a statement. [183369]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of suicides in Wales in each constituency in each year since 2000, broken down by (a) sex and (b) age. (183369)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death in Wales by (a) parliamentary constituency and sex, and (b) five year age group, for 2000 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures are not available for parliamentary constituency, broken down by sex and age, as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in death statistics.

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2]: Wales, by parliamentary constituency and sex, 2000-06[3]

Parliamentary constituency	*Sex*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Deaths* *2006*
Aberavon	Male	10	13	4	6	8	10	5
	Female	1	1	2	0	4	3	2
	Total	11	14	6	6	12	13	7
Alyn and Deeside	Male	7	7	5	5	6	5	6
	Female	1	1	2	2	1	1	0
	Total	8	8	7	7	7	6	6
Blaenau Gwent	Male	11	4	9	2	11	5	1
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Total	11	4	9	4	11	5	3
Brecon and Radnorshire	Male	5	11	1	2	2	8	3
	Female	2	0	2	1	2	5	3
	Total	7	11	3	3	4	13	6
Bridgend	Male	8	4	7	9	7	8	12
	Female	2	0	1	3	3	1	5
	Total	10	4	8	12	10	9	17
Caernarvon	Male	4	2	1	4	6	3	3
	Female	1	1	0	4	4	2	2
	Total	5	3	1	8	10	5	5
Caerphilly	Male	8	7	7	6	12	3	6
	Female	0	0	1	2	2	1	2
	Total	8	7	8	8	14	4	8
Cardiff Central	Male	3	6	6	6	6	5	7
	Female	1	2	3	1	3	4	4
	Total	4	8	9	7	9	9	11
Cardiff North	Male	6	7	6	5	5	3	4
	Female	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Total	9	8	7	6	6	4	5
Cardiff South and Penarth	Male	7	6	8	5	5	4	3
	Female	3	1	0	2	1	1	2
	Total	10	7	8	7	6	5	5
Cardiff West	Male	7	5	4	7	14	3	8
	Female	0	1	2	4	1	1	5
	Total	7	6	6	11	15	4	13
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	Male	8	7	6	10	12	7	9
	Female	2	1	2	2	0	1	1
	Total	10	8	8	12	12	8	10
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	Male	8	11	7	6	9	7	9
	Female	1	2	1	4	4	0	1
	Total	9	13	8	10	13	7	10
Ceredigion	Male	3	6	7	9	4	7	7
	Female	0	2	5	3	5	0	2

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2], Wales, by parliamentary constituency and sex, 2000-06[3]

								Deaths
Parliamentary constituency	*Sex*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	Total	3	8	12	12	9	7	9
Clwyd South	Male	5	5	6	5	9	5	6
	Female	1	1	1	1	0	2	3
	Total	6	6	7	6	9	7	9
Clwyd West	Male	5	5	4	11	10	7	12
	Female	2	3	4	3	3	3	0
	Total	7	8	8	14	13	10	12
Conwy	Male	6	6	9	4	3	5	9
	Female	4	0	6	2	3	0	2
	Total	10	6	15	6	6	5	11
Cynon Valley	Male	3	9	2	5	5	4	5
	Female	1	2	3	2	2	1	1
	Total	4	11	5	7	7	5	6
Delyn	Male	10	6	5	8	13	7	7
	Female	5	1	1	2	0	0	3
	Total	15	7	6	10	13	7	10
Gower	Male	5	9	4	9	2	2	4
	Female	2	3	2	2	1	0	3
	Total	7	12	6	11	3	2	7
Islwyn	Male	3	4	6	9	7	4	5
	Female	0	0	0	3	0	1	2
	Total	3	4	6	12	7	5	7
Llanelli	Male	6	8	6	8	4	6	6
	Female	3	5	2	2	1	3	1
	Total	9	13	8	10	5	9	7
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	Male	7	3	4	6	3	2	3
	Female	2	4	1	2	0	1	1
	Total	9	7	5	8	3	3	4
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	Male	11	6	4	10	4	4	6
	Female	1	1	3	0	2	3	4
	Total	12	7	7	10	6	7	10
Monmouth	Male	6	5	6	3	3	3	7
	Female	1	0	2	2	4	0	1
	Total	7	5	8	5	7	3	8
Montgomeryshire	Male	3	10	4	8	4	6	3
	Female	2	1	1	4	2	0	1
	Total	5	11	5	12	6	6	4
Neath	Male	1	5	10	12	4	8	5
	Female	2	2	2	2	0	0	2
	Total	3	7	12	14	4	8	7

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2], Wales, by parliamentary constituency and sex, 2000-06[3]

Deaths

Parliamentary constituency	*Sex*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Newport East	Male	6	7	6	4	3	4	4
	Female	3	1	0	1	0	3	0
	Total	9	8	6	5	3	7	4
Newport West	Male	5	5	5	3	4	8	9
	Female	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
	Total	6	6	6	3	5	9	11
Ogmore	Male	6	8	9	5	7	5	3
	Female	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
	Total	6	8	9	7	7	6	4
Pontypridd	Male	10	7	7	7	6	3	3
	Female	2	3	2	0	2	0	1
	Total	12	10	9	7	8	3	4
Preseli Pembrokeshire	Male	8	9	5	6	6	9	1
	Female	3	1	4	0	0	0	2
	Total	11	10	9	6	6	9	3
Rhondda	Male	4	8	5	6	8	7	6
	Female	2	2	5	4	2	2	1
	Total	6	10	10	10	10	9	7
Swansea East	Male	5	7	9	9	7	8	7
	Female	2	3	3	3	2	0	1
	Total	7	10	12	12	9	8	8
Swansea West	Male	7	3	6	6	4	4	6
	Female	1	2	4	5	3	1	5
	Total	8	5	10	11	7	5	11
Torfaen	Male	6	7	4	7	7	4	5
	Female	3	2	1	2	1	3	1
	Total	9	9	5	9	8	7	6
Vale of Clwyd	Male	11	3	8	3	13	5	6
	Female	2	2	2	0	3	4	3
	Total	13	5	10	3	16	9	9
Vale of Glamorgan	Male	8	6	6	7	5	6	4
	Female	3	4	3	0	5	2	2
	Total	11	10	9	7	10	8	6
Wrexham	Male	5	3	5	4	5	6	6
	Female	1	1	0	3	1	3	2
	Total	6	4	5	7	6	9	8
Ynys Mon	Male	4	4	6	7	5	3	3
	Female	2	1	0	0	3	1	0
	Total	6	5	6	7	8	4	3
Total		319	313	304	332	330	269	301

Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1,2], Wales, by age group, 2000-06[3]

Deaths (persons)

Age group	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
15-19	23	13	7	16	16	8	7
20-24	27	25	31	43	19	19	22
25-29	34	34	30	39	28	13	16
30-34	37	33	32	39	32	34	30
35-39	44	38	35	33	37	25	39
40-44	21	30	39	29	31	31	30
45-49	27	30	25	27	33	29	32
50-54	23	26	25	26	34	32	26
55-59	22	20	21	27	24	25	30
60-64	16	17	16	19	16	14	21
65-69	9	16	11	7	18	10	17
70-74	15	10	6	13	14	7	12
75-79	10	11	8	6	16	8	9
80-84	5	3	10	7	6	7	5
85+	6	7	8	1	6	7	5
Total	319	313	304	332	330	269	301

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

Taxation: Energy

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to Ofgem's proposal for a windfall tax on energy suppliers. [178759]

Angela Eagle: Proposals about tax are dealt with by the Chancellor in the usual Budget/pre-Budget report cycle. The Treasury considers all representations on tax issues including tax proposals.

Tolls: Roads

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the factors taken into account by local authorities in deciding whether or not to introduce road-pricing schemes; and if he will make a statement. [181584]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) will support packages of local measures that tackle congestion problems by combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport. These packages will be locally designed solutions to local congestion problems. The factors we expect local authorities to take into account are available in 'TIF: Guidance on Business Case Requirements for Programme Entry' available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/tif/
tifguidanceprogrammeentry

We will formally assess business cases that are submitted against the published criteria.

We have made no assessment of the factors taken into account by local authorities deciding not to introduce road pricing schemes.

Valuation Office: Geographic Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether representatives of the Valuation Office Agency will attend the 2008 GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference in New Orleans in February 2008. [178740]

Jane Kennedy: No.

WALES

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (X) special advisers, (Y) Ministers and (Z) communications officials in (aa) his Department and (bb) its agencies since August 2005. [183934]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Prison Service

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the implementation of the new structures for prison and probation services in Wales. [184077]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My predecessor had regular discussions with the First Minister and Ministry of Justice colleagues on matters affecting Wales, including prison and probation services. I intend to continue this.

The restructuring will bring the National Offender Management Service and the Prison Service together so as to improve the focus on front-line delivery and improve efficiency.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Insurance Contributions

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK residents would be eligible to purchase an additional (i) six and (ii) nine years national insurance contributions assuming 6 per cent. and 15 per cent. take-up rates if purchasing those additional years were available only to those who already had (A) 10 years or more, (B) 15 years and (C) 20 years or more national insurance contributions in (1) 2010, (2) 2020, (3) 2030, (4) 2040 and (5) 2050; and if he will estimate the costs of such purchases in each case. [177833]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information has been placed in the Library.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the review his Department conducted of the options to buy additional years of National Insurance contributions for people with broken work records; and if he will make a statement. [180133]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government considered all the available information and analysis of the data available to it in considering the options, including the views of stakeholders, when it decided to make no changes to the current class 3 national insurance contribution rules. The Government explained their reasons for the decision through their answer to Baroness Hollis on 17 December 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 467.

Pensions: Females

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of paying pension credit to women who do not qualify for the full state pension due to broken National Insurance contribution records; and if he will make a statement. [180132]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2006-07, the estimated expenditure on pension credit paid to women who do not receive a full basic state pension was around £1.25 billion.

All our estimates of the cost of the options to allow people to buy extra voluntary national insurance contributions to increase their basic state pension take into account offsets in income-related benefits, including pension credit.

Notes:

1. Data are taken from a 5 per cent. extract of Pensions Strategy Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.

2. Figures are rounded and expenditure is calibrated to official DWP pension credit annual expenditure figures for 2006-07.

3. The current full rate of state pension used is as at March 2007, which was £84.25 per week.

4. Expenditure figures are shown in 2006-07 prices.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 4 February 2008

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the bid book estimate is for construction of *(a)* the broadcast/media centre and *(b)* the athletes village for the London 2012 Olympics. [184387]

Tessa Jowell: The bid book capital investment estimate for the International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) was $215 million (approx. £134.4 million at a USD/GBP exchange rate of 1.6). The bid book capital investment estimate for the Olympic Village was $1.04 billion (approx. £650 million at a USD/GBP exchange rate of 1.6).

The bid book figures were calculated at 2004 prices in US Dollars (an IOC requirement) and did not include VAT.

Olympic Games 2012: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority on the accessibility of the Olympic Village for people with disabilities; and if she will make a statement. [184384]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Village will be fully accessible to disabled people and comply with both the spirit and the intent of all relevant legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and its supporting code of practice and will exceed the requirements of the UK's Building Regulations (Part M).

I am fully committed to ensuring that the Village is a model of accessibility. To that end, the ODA's Access and Inclusion Forum meets on a quarterly basis to advise on areas of inclusive design through the sharing of knowledge and experience. It has representation from a lead disability organisation within each of the five boroughs, as well as the Borough Access Officers and key external stakeholders.

In addition to the forum, the ODA Access Panels—one for the built environment and one for transport—target the more specific issues around those areas. The Panels provide specialist disability and inclusive design experts to review and advise upon Park commitments—both at Games time and in legacy—and have final sign-off on ODA build commitments. In support of this, the ODA has also appointed two Principal Access Officers, one specialising in transport accessibility, and one specialising in the built environment. These Officers are responsible for the development of inclusive design within the ODA's programme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many residences in the Olympic Village will be accessible to disabled people. [184385]

Tessa Jowell: London 2012's Olympic and Paralympic Village have been designed from the outset as an accessible and inclusive community. During Games time, the Village will provide over 17,320 beds to athletes and officials and 8,700 during the Paralympic Games, all of which will be wheelchair accessible.

The Village will comply with both the spirit and the intent of the relevant legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)1995 and its supporting code of practices. In addition, it will exceed the requirements of the UK's Building Regulations (Part M). For example, the design of bathrooms throughout the Village will exceed the IPC minimum requirements.

In legacy, the Olympic Village will provide approximately 4,000 residential units. These units are all being designed to ensure that all people, young and old, single or in families, disabled and non-disabled can benefit. As many of the Village units as is practicable will be built to Lifetime Homes Standards. In addition, at least 10 per cent. of these units also will be fully accessible to wheelchairs.

Olympic Games 2012: Land

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what legal arrangements have been made for the sale of surplus land after the 2012 Olympics to pay back moneys taken from the Lottery; and if she will make a statement. [184397]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House on 27 March 2007 in which I announced the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government and the Mayor of London.

This MOU sets out how the land acquired for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be sold and the moneys realised. It puts in place arrangements for sharing the profits that are expected to be generated by the increase in land and property values in the Olympic Park as a result of the investment for the Games. Both the Government and the Mayor have stated their shared intention to abide by the terms of the MOU.

The Memorandum shows details of the amounts we expected to be recovered, from the sale of land acquired by the London Development Agency for the purposes of delivering the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and how these funds will be allocated between the London Development Agency and the National Lottery.

Copies of the Memorandum are available in the Library of the House.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by her Office in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183354]

Helen Goodman: Following a machinery of government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred prior to 2007-08 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Since June 2007, there have been no parking tickets or speeding fines issued to the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what meetings she has held since 27 June 2007 with representatives of *(a)* rape crisis centres, *(b)* women's refuges, *(c)* sexual assault referral centres, *(d)* prostitution, trafficking and sexual exploitation support services and *(e)* other third sector organisations dealing with violence against women. [182678]

Barbara Follett: Since 27 June 2007, the Ministers for Women and Equality have had meetings and maintained contact with stakeholders and third sector organisations on a range of issues, including violence against women.

Prostitution

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* the deputy Minister for Women and Equality has had with Ministerial colleagues on the Government's policy on prostitution in each of the last three months. [181932]

Barbara Follett: The Ministers for Women and Equality are in close and regular contact with ministerial colleagues about this issue. In addition, the deputy Minister for Women and Equality sits on the Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Sexual Violence, to which progress on the Prostitution Strategy is reported.

PRIME MINISTER

China

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister which British business leaders accompanied him on his recent visit to China and India; on what basis they were invited; what bilateral business agreements were made during the visit; what the outcomes from the trip were; and if he will make a statement. [183862]

The Prime Minister: The following business leaders accompanied me on my trip to China and India:

Name	*Organisation*
Dr. Jack Gao	News Corporation
David Brennan	Astra Zeneca
Gary Dirks	BP
Alan Parker	Brunswick Group
Sir David Brewer	CBBC
Mouzhan Majidi	Foster and Partners
Professor Drummond Bone	Liverpool University
Sir Colin Campbell	Nottingham University
John Napier	RSA
Carla Furse	London Stock Exchange
Jorma Ollila	Shell
Sir Bill Gammell	Cairn Energy
Lord Paul of Marylebone	Caparo
Lord Karan Bilimoria	UKIBC
Philip Yea	3i
Terry Hill	Arup
Marcus Agius	Barclays
Sir Adrian Montague	British Energy Group
Angad Paul	Caparo
Richard Lambert	CBI
Stuart Popham	Clifford Chance
John Connolly	Deloitte
Mark Otty	Ernst & Young
Sir Anthony Bamford	JCB
Rick Trainor	KCL
John Griffith-Jones	KPMG
Lord Peter Levene	Lloyds
Dr. John Hood	Oxford University
Sir David Clementi	Prudential
Peter Sands	Standard Chartered
Gerry Grimstone	Standard Life
Professor Malcolm Grant	UCL
Sir Richard Branson	Virgin
Arun Sarin	Vodafone

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the special advisers employed in his Office since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184379]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. Information on the number of special advisers before 2003 was provided at regular intervals. This information is available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities: Floods

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Prime Minister what progress has been made in giving one Government Department responsibility for all flooding matters. [178790]

The Prime Minister: The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs is the lead department for all flooding matters in England. This includes ensuring that the Environment Agency and local responders such as the emergency services and local authorities have suitable arrangements and capabilities in place to respond to flood emergencies on the ground.

Work to co-ordinate the wider Government flood recovery effort is led by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Energy

Mr. Spring: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he met representatives of *(a)* Npower, *(b)* EDF, *(c)* Powergen, *(d)* British Energy, *(e)* Scottish Power and *(f)* Scottish and Southern Energy in each of the last five years. [183386]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held by my Office.

National Security Strategy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the reasons were for the decision to change the publication of the National Security Strategy from its announced publication date of autumn 2007; [184212]

(2) when he plans to publish the National Security Strategy. [184454]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the content of my statement on national security on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 667.

WALES

Suicide: Males

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent meetings have been held with National Assembly for Wales Government Ministers to discuss the number of male suicides in Wales. [183368]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have discussed the issue of suicides in Wales with the First Minister.

Such tragic incidences are of great concern and distress to me. I congratulate my hon. Friend for successfully securing an adjournment debate for Thursday this week to raise awareness and to discuss this important issue.

In the meantime, a taskforce, which includes police, children's services and mental health experts, is examining other so-called copycat suicides by young people in Bridgend since 2004. The taskforce will determine if there are any links between the suicides and ensure that other young people, many of them friends of the victims, have access to counselling and other support services.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers the House of Commons Commission employed in each of the last 10 years. [182517]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission first employed a Media and Communications Adviser in October 2000. Since this date the following additional staff have been employed:

2001: 1 x Media and Communications Assistant (part-time)
2003: 1 x Select Committee Media Officer
2004: 2 x Select Committee Media Officers
2005: 2 x Media and Communications Officers
2006: 2 x Select Committee Media Officers

There are currently nine staff in the House of Commons Media and Communications Service: the Communications Adviser, five Select Committee Media Officers, two Media and Communications Officers and a Media and Communications Assistant.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Commission paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182730]

Nick Harvey: In order to protect the privacy of the staff concerned, the value of payments made in each year cannot be disclosed. However, for the years in question the House of Commons Commission paid a total of £5,174 in respect of performance related bonuses to press and communications officers. The individual amounts paid ranged from £74 to £515.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to promote the safety of his Department's employees operating in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [184209]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The safety and security of all staff in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq is a top priority for DFID. We take all possible measures to ensure this including, where appropriate, providing hardened accommodation and office facilities, and specialist training for staff. DFID staff and consultants are covered by Foreign and Commonwealth Office security management procedures. Current security provisions are under constant review in order to ensure we provide maximum safety to our staff. Each and every security incident is considered carefully, and we have already made a number of enhancements to our security provisions as a result of recent incidents.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the delivery of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [183537]

Mr. Malik: DFID monitors the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan very closely. We receive regular updates from the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan and other UN agencies such as the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

UNOCHA recently conducted a workshop in Afghanistan which looked at the key humanitarian challenges in delivering humanitarian aid and how donors could better co-ordinate to improve its delivery and effectiveness. The final report should be available in March 2008.

In 2006-07 DFID provided £1.6 million in bilateral humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Afghanistan is also one of the largest recipients of UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support, to which the UK is the largest contributor (23 per cent. of total CERF value in 2006). Afghanistan received $32.3 million from CERF in 2006. We also provide core funding to UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and UNHCR, all of whom have operations in Afghanistan.

Departmental Foreign Workers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UK staff his Department employs in each country overseas. [180822]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The number of UK staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) in each country overseas, is shown in the following table:

DFID country offices—full delegated authority

Country	*All HCS*
Afghanistan	24
Bangladesh	22
Burma	3
Burundi	3
Cambodia	8
Caribbean regional (Barbados)—covers country offices in:	2
Guyana	4
Jamaica	1
Haiti	1
China	8
Democratic republic of Congo	13
Ethiopia	18
Ghana	9
India[1]	23
Indonesia	2
Kenya	12
Malawi	14
Mozambique	10
Nepal	13
Nigeria (Abuja)[2]	27
Pakistan	22
Rwanda	9
Sierra Leone (covering Liberia)	14
South-east Asia (Thailand—closes 2008)	5
South Africa (Pretoria)—covers country offices in:	11
Angola	1
Lesotho	1
Sudan	17
Tanzania	9
Uganda	14
Vietnam	7
Zambia	10
Zimbabwe	8
Bosnia	1
Kosovo	1
Kyrgyzstan	2
Tajikistan	2
Ukraine	1
Serbia and Montenegro	1
Bolivia	1
Brazil	2
Nicaragua	2
Iraq	7
Jerusalem (Palestinian territories)	5
Yemen	3
Montserrat	4
St. Helena	6
Gambia	1
Belgium—EU and UKrep	7
France—OECD and UNESCO	2
Italy—UNFAO	2
Switzerland—UKMIS	1
USA—World Bank and Un	1
Grand total (all staff overseas)	397

[1] India numbers include those staff in the state offices in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya, Orissa and West Bengal.

[2] Nigeria numbers include those staff in the state offices in Lagos, Kano and Enugu.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183297]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of vehicles owned and purchased in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Trade

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the World Trade Organisation on the Doha trade round; and what assessment he has made of the prospects for the agreement of a new trade deal in 2008. [183794]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development discussed the Doha trade round with Pascal Lamy, director general of the World Trade Organisation, during the World Economic Forum in Davos in January.

It is still possible to reach agreement on a Doha trade deal in 2008 if there is movement from all concerned. It is important that all parties show flexibility in the negotiations to try and resolve outstanding issues. We are now waiting for the revised chairs' negotiating texts, which are expected to be issued in February, and which will provide the basis for further negotiations and a possible agreement.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department took to mark the suffering of the victims of the *(a)* Holocaust and *(b)* recent genocides on Holocaust Memorial Day. [183831]

Mr. Malik: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government spoke at the Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 in Liverpool, which took place on 27 January. I also attended in my role as a trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. The powerful commemoration rightly acknowledged the suffering experienced by the victims of other more recent atrocities including those that occurred in Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

National Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role his Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [184202]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Vietnam: Chemical Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the continuing effects of the chemical warfare in Vietnam; and what plans he has for assistance to the Government of Vietnam to mitigate such effects. [184337]

Mr. Malik: Over the past 12 years, the Ministry of Health in Vietnam have been carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the continuing effects of dioxin contamination across the country. The evidence shows that the majority of land in Vietnam is not contaminated and that concentrations of dioxin in most of Vietnam are within international guidelines. However, there remain "hotspots" of serious contamination particularly around former US bases where dioxin and other herbicides were stored and deployed. The main priorities are to protect communities living in these areas and to provide support for those already affected.

The Vietnam Government are implementing policies, standards and guidelines to deal with the problem. This work is being funded by a number of agencies including the Canadian International Development Agency, Ford Foundation, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. DFID provides budget support to Vietnam through its funding of the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Support Credit. Part of this supports work on environmental standards and waste management. In addition, our education programmes (around £40 million) support inclusive education for children with disabilities (including from dioxin) and our core funds to the UN (£4 million) also support UN work on environmental management. A large number of international and national non-governmental organisations also provide support to Agent Orange victims, including the Vietnam Red Cross, Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange, the Fund for Reconciliation and Development, and Oxfam-Hong Kong.

Water Supply

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1498-99W, on water supply, if he will formally recognise the contribution made by the late Thuli Khambule, South African co-ordinator for the Partners for Water and Sanitation, on the work undertaken on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [183893]

Mr. Thomas: Thuli Khambule joined the Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS) in September 2003 and over the next few years directed much needed support to South African municipalities in their delivery of water and sanitation services, through PAWS and other programmes.

PAWS staff, partners and friends have paid tribute to her guidance, knowledge and dignity in making the South Africa programme a success. The continued work of the PAWS South Africa programme to help improve the lives of poor people will be a fitting tribute to Thuli Khambule.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180696]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office paid Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries the following amounts in each year since 2000-01:

	Amount (£)
2000-01	46,015
2001-02	26,645
2002-03	236,345
2003-04	154,046
2004-05	16,021
2005-06	73,054
2006-07	0
Total	552,126

The contracts which have been awarded centrally to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries since 2000-01 are as follows:

Contract awarded	*Date*	*Value (£)*
NIO Review of the State Pathologists Department	May 2001	28,610
NIO Review of Funding to Nexus Institute	February 2003	4,750
Options Appraisal for a Centralised Mortuary Facility	November 2003	38,623

The payments which are not covered by central contracts are set up by departmental divisions using the departmental procurement guidelines. These divisional contracts are set up when their value is less than £10,000.

Penalties for default are illegal under UK Contract Law so incentives or pre-estimates of damages are commonly used instead.

As the information has been gathered from a number of business areas, provision of details relating to the length of the contracts; whether they were advertised; how many companies applied for each contract; how many companies were short listed for each contract; what criteria were used for choosing a company and what provision was made for renewal without re-tender could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Crime Prevention: Elderly

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Community Safety Unit will complete and publish its evaluation of the Proposals for the Safety of Older People document. [180865]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit received 29 responses to the consultation on Proposals for the Safety of Older People and is in the process of evaluating these comments. A summary of the responses will be published on the NIO website in mid-March.

Crime: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons have been charged in connection with the incident in which two young men were publicly paraded with placards on the Shankill Road, Belfast, on 11 January 2008. [183026]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI that no persons have as yet been arrested or charged in connection with this incident and enquiries into this matter continue. All acts of criminality should be dealt with through the proper authorities and the criminal justice system and I urge anyone with information in relation to this incident to contact the PSNI.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181898]

Mr. Woodward: The information relating to the consultancy contracts in the Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies and NDPBs) since 2005 is shown in the following table.

	Purpose	*Contractor*	*Value (£)*	*Report available*
2005-06	Evaluation of Radiolink	Deloitte and Touche	27,139	Yes
	Evaluation of Racial Harassment Support and Advocacy Project	MMMA Consultancy	9,990	No
	Evaluation of Good Morning Projects	NIACRO	10,762	Yes
	Technical Assurance	PA Consulting	72,800	No
	Consultancy Testing	Deloitte and Touche	25,000	No
	Causeway Network Health Check	Securetest	28,225	No
	Causeway Contract Management	DLA	3,080	No
	Evaluation of Fermanagh and Tyrone Pilot Project	John Jackson	3,300	No
	IT and Management	Deloitte and Touche	367,041	No
	Assistance in developing PPS Policy Document	Monica McWilliams	1,250	No
	Legal Assistance	Ivor Morrison	91,953	No
	Quality Assurance Review for the implementation of part V of the Police Act 1997 in Northern Ireland	Daniell Consulting Ltd	2,148	No
	IT Flax Project	Tim Lewis	234,000	No
	ITIL	HP	38,000	No
	IT Services	Parasol	150,000	No
	Review of Gardens and Grounds Maintenance at Hillsborough Castle	TTC International	11,486	No
	Provision of a new IT system for the State Pathologist's Department	Fluent Technology	125,782	No
	Status Review of the State Pathologist's Department	Deloitte MCS Ltd	11,850	No
	Advice on quality assuring design requirements for New Mortuary Project	P. Venners	5,084	No
	Staffing Review of the State Pathologist's Department Laboratory	Business Development Service	15,600	No
	Advice on new consultant contracts	Dr. Gaston	1,531	No

	Purpose	*Contractor*	*Value (£)*	*Report available*
2006-07	Research into Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Northern Ireland	Social and Market Research	9,782	Yes
	Evaluation of the Implementation of ASBOs	DTZ	30,000	Not Yet Complete
	Review of Extern and NIACRO	ASM Howarth	38,810	No
	Review of the Public Prosecution Service Case Management System	PA Consulting	9,061	No
	Accounting Services	Deloitte and Touche	19,775	No
	Security Services	Raymond Wilson	7,000	No
	Corporate Services	Bill-Hamilton Sturdy	52,493	No
	Review of OCTF Media Strategy	SC Dodds Communications	6,000	No
	Quality Assurance for the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland	Jim Daniell	35,758	Yes
	Production of Business Case for the New Mortuary Project	Napier-Watson Consulting Ltd	8,828	No
	Advice to Northern Ireland Law Commission Project Board	Michael Sayers	2,530	No
2007-08	Provision of a Causeway Testing Manager	Deloitte and Touche	39,163	No
	Causeway Programme Health Check	OGC	26,000	No
	Provision of a Data Migration Test Manager (to 2008-09)	Neueda	115,000	No
	OCTF DVD	Mark Jervis' Broadcast and Corporate Television	5,000	No
	OCTF media advertising campaign	Genesis Advertising	40,000	No
	Programme Management Support	Parity	5,250	No
	Accounting Services	Helm Corporation	57,187	No
	Quality Assurance for the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland	Jim Daniell	35,758	Yes
	Management Services	Cornwall Management	13,608	No
	IT Development	JSE Consultancy	29,000	No
	PFD	PricewaterhouseCoopers	40,000	No

Please note that only reports relating to consultancy contracts that are of public interest are made publicly available.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182512]

Mr. Woodward: Information on employees is only held for five years. The number of press officers working in the Northern Ireland Office for each of the five years is detailed in the following table. There are no communications officers in the Department.

	Number
2002-03	15
2003-04	11
2004-05	14
2005-06	12
2006-07	11

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182724]

Mr. Woodward: This information is held electronically for the previous two years and details are set out in the following table. Prior years would have to be obtained through a manual exercise and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

		£
	2005-06	*2006-07*
Total	14,150	15,240
Highest	9,000	9,000
Lowest	75	50

These are non-consolidated, non-pensionable, bonuses awarded for exceptional performance and additional workload.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 340W, on Afghanistan: detainees, how many detainees have been transferred from UK forces to the Afghan authorities under the terms of the bilateral memorandum of understanding on the transfer of detainees. [178903]

David Miliband: Information available to 29 January shows that a total of 74 detainees have been transferred from UK forces to the Afghan authorities under the terms of the bilateral memorandum of understanding on the transfer of detainees. Of those, 13 remain in Afghan custody.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 340W, on Afghanistan: detainees, whether the UK's bilateral memorandum of understanding on the transfer of detainees with the Afghan authorities contains provisions for the monitoring of the human rights condition of detainees after transfer; and if he will make a statement; [178904]

(2) what assessment he has made of the human rights situations in prisons used to house detainees transferred to the Afghan authorities by UK forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [183379]

David Miliband: The UK's bilateral memorandum of understanding on the transfer of detainees to the Afghan authorities does contain provisions about respecting the human rights of detainees.

The Afghan government has shown that it is fully aware of its obligations and takes its human rights responsibilities seriously. The arrangements for access to detainees by our officials and by human rights organisations to monitor their treatment were restated in an exchange of letters between the Afghan government and the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and the United States in 2007.

We have a constructive relationship with the Afghan government on detention issues and are working closely with them on a number of projects to improve facilities and governance.

Afghanistan: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK staff are serving in diplomatic posts in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what plans there are for UK staff numbers in those posts in each of the next three years. [179168]

David Miliband: Our embassies and other diplomatic posts in both Afghanistan and Iraq are staffed by officials from a range of Government Departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and (in Afghanistan) the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit.

In Afghanistan, there are over 100 UK-based civilian officials in our embassy in Kabul and over 30 UK-based civilian officials in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. Their roles include work in governance, reconstruction and development, and counter narcotics. We plan to increase over the coming period staff numbers to further strengthen our efforts in Afghanistan: the precise details remain to be determined.

Over 50 UK-based civilian officials work in our embassy in Baghdad and our embassy offices in Basra and Erbil. They are there to support the democratically elected Government of Iraq in their efforts to achieve reconciliation, democracy, good governance, economic prosperity and security. We do not expect staff numbers to change significantly over the next three years.

Afghanistan: Prisons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received representations from *(a)* human rights organisations and *(b)* International Security Assistance Force coalition partners about the human rights conditions in Afghan prisons; and if he will make a statement. [183378]

David Miliband: We maintain an ongoing dialogue with human rights organisations and International Security Assistance Force partners on a range of detention-related matters, including human rights issues. British officials have also met human rights organisations to discuss reports on specific detention-related issues. We have a constructive relationship with the Afghan government on these issues, and are working closely with them on a number of projects to improve facilities and governance.

British Council

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Council offices and facilities were closed *(a)* permanently and *(b)* temporarily (i) as a result of pressure from foreign governments and (ii) in other circumstances in each of the last two years. [183897]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No British Council offices were permanently closed as a result of pressure from foreign governments within the last two years. Operations have been suspended in St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg since 17 January 2008 in the light of pressures from the Russian government.

As part of its global strategy and re-allocation of resources into priority regions, the British Council permanently closed three country offices and 29 facilities in 2006 and 16 facilities in 2007. There were no country closures in 2007.

The British Council offices temporarily closed in Gaza City (March to May 2006) and Beirut (July to September 2006) because of security concerns.

Children: Protection

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to sign the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; and if he will make a statement. [178717]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government intend to sign the Convention before June 2008.

The Convention is a significant instrument, which contains a number of provisions that will help improve child protection. The UK's signature will be a signal of our continued commitment to this important area of protection.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his

Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [181320]

Meg Munn: Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets apply to the central Government estate in the UK. In financial year 2005-06 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office sourced 39 per cent. of its electricity from renewables and recycled 32.7 per cent. of its waste on its UK estate.

The Sustainable Development Commission is expected to publish in mid-March its assessment of Government Departments' performance in 2006-07.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [181321]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office started implementing a Carbon Management Programme, developed with the Carbon Trust, in 2007 on its UK estate.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department met the target in the sustainable operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [181322]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not meet the target to reverse the upward trend in carbon emissions on its UK estate by April 2007.

Since 2007 we have been implementing a carbon management programme, developed with the Carbon Trust, to achieve the Government's sustainable operations targets on carbon emissions.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for *(a)* its whole estate and *(b)* some of its buildings. [181323]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's environmental management system is accredited to the International Organisation for Standardisation 14001, and covers 91 per cent. of its staff on our three major sites. We keep under review whether we can effectively and efficiently extend coverage to our other relatively small sites.

EC Reform: Treaties

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely annual cost to the UK of the external action service as proposed in the Lisbon Treaty. [183926]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The Lisbon Treaty provides for a European External Action Service (EEAS) which will bring together staff currently working on external issues in the European Council Secretariat and the European Commission, along with secondees from EU member states. The EEAS will be launched only after the Treaty comes into force.

There have not yet been any discussions on the detailed organisation and functioning of the EEAS.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what checks his Department plans to make on companies and organisations tendering for contracts to administer visa application checks; how it will monitor the performance of those awarded such contracts; and what estimate he has made of the likely annual cost to his Department of such monitoring. [178731]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The commercial partnership contract to provide visa application services was signed on 27 February 2007 with CSC and VFS Global. Procurement was conducted in accordance with EU rules and under the Official Journal of the European Union procedure. Prospective bidders were required to provide evidence of their financial standing. UKvisas also conducted due diligence on all three short-listed companies and both successful companies have signed parent company guarantees. Performance is monitored through a regional and central governance structure and this includes performance against a number of agreed critical service performance levels/criteria, which can attract financial recompense to UKvisas if not met. In respect of the cost of monitoring, the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Costs

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost to the public purse of processing visa application checks at embassies and consulates was in the last financial year; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent annual cost arising in those countries where processing such checks has been outsourced. [178729]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UKvisas is funded by income generated from the charging of visa fees agreed by Parliament through the Consular Fees Order. The cost of processing visa application checks at our embassies and consulates in the financial year 2006-07 was wholly met by visa fee income. The estimate of the full cost of the commercial partnership contract for outsourced visa application services in the financial year 2007-08 is £53.366 million. This cost is incorporated into visa fees which are applied globally.

European Commission: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual UK contribution was towards maintaining, staffing and operating the representative offices of the European Commission in *(a)* EU capitals, *(b)* non-EU capitals and *(c)* other locations in each of the last 10 years. [183925]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information on the UK contribution towards maintaining, staffing and operating the representative offices of the European Commission over the past 10 years.

European Commission: Overseas Residence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals worked in representative offices of the European Commission in *(a)* EU capitals, *(b)* non-EU capitals and *(c)* other locations in each of the last 10 years. [183927]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information.

Statistical information on staff at the European Commission can be found on the Commission's statistical bulletin at:

http://ec.europa.eu/civil_service/about/figures/index_en.htm

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182833]

Meg Munn: In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), two cases involving bullying were raised as internal grievances. One was partially upheld and one not upheld. One member of staff received a disciplinary penalty for bullying.

In FCO Services, an Executive agency of the FCO, there were three allegations in 2007: one was withdrawn; one was upheld and disciplinary action taken against the perpetrator; and one which is still under investigation.

Iran: Oppression

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Iranian Government on its practice of holding peaceful dissenters in detention without trial under national security legislation; and if he will make a statement. [183859]

Dr. Howells: We are very concerned by the growing clampdown on dissent in Iran, including through the use of national security legislation.

In the last year, a large number of human rights defenders have been accused of

> "acting against national security".

This has included trade unionists, such as Mansour Ossanlou and Mahmud Salehi, peaceful protesters including teachers protesting for a living wage, a large number of women arrested in spring/summer 2007 for protesting in favour of equal rights, and other human rights activists such as Emaddedin Baghi, an anti-death penalty campaigner.

Others have been sentenced for related offences such a

> "propaganda against the system"

—most recently, a group of 54 Baha'is, but also a number of students arrested in July 2007 in connection with an article in a student magazine.

We have raised all of these cases through the EU, highlighting the fact that individuals have essentially been sentenced for non-violent protest, and calling on the Iranian Government to support the right to freedom of expression, as it is committed to under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran in December last year, expressing very serious concern about

> "ongoing, systemic and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of opinion and expression ... and increasing harassment, intimidation and persecution of political opponents and human rights defenders from all sectors of Iranian society".

Iran: Prisoners

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will raise with the Iranian government the cases of Miss Haleh Roohi, Mr. Sasan Taqva and Miss Raha Sabet who have recently been imprisoned in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [184242]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of Baha'i with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU.

The EU presidency has already raised the case of these three individuals in a meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 January. In this meeting, the EU drew attention to the worsening situation of ethnic and religious minorities in Iran, especially the Baha'i community, and expressed opposition to all forms of discrimination, in particular regarding the freedom of religion. The EU called for the immediate release of the three individuals and the abandoning of all proceedings against the rest of the group of Baha'is . We will monitor this case closely and will continue to raise it with the Iranian government.

The Government continues to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the issue of freedom of religious conscience in Iran with his counterpart in the Iranian government; and if he will make a statement. [184243]

Dr. Howells: We continue to be very concerned by the treatment of religious minorities in Iran in particular the Bahá'i and Christian communities and converts from Islam. We have made clear to the Iranian authorities on many occasions that we believe persecution of individuals on the grounds of their ethnicity or religious beliefs is unacceptable.

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran in December last year, expressing very serious concern about increasing discrimination against religious and other minorities in Iran, including Christians, Jews, Sufis, Sunni Muslims and Bahá'í. The UK, through the EU, co-sponsored this resolution.

We will continue to raise concerns about the treatment of religious minorities with the Iranian authorities through the EU and bilaterally, and press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations and uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to which Iran is a state party).

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the religious freedom of the minority Bahá'í community in Iran. [184244]

Dr. Howells: We continue to be very concerned by the treatment of religious minorities in Iran, including Bahá'ís.

The Bahá'í faith is not recognised under the Iranian constitution and as a result Bahá'í routinely face discrimination and persecution. In recent years Bahá'í have been subject to arbitrary arrests, confiscation of property and restrictions on employment. Bahá'í students have not been able to access higher education unless they deny their faith or accept that it is incorrectly recorded on official university forms.

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution about the human rights situation in Iran in December last year, expressing very serious concern about increasing discrimination against religious and other minorities in Iran, including in particular

> "attacks on Bahá'ís and their faith in state-sponsored media, increasing evidence of efforts by the state to identify and monitor Bahá'ís and prevention of the Bahá'í faith from attending university and from sustaining themselves economically".

The UK, through the EU, co-sponsored this resolution.

Israel: Occupied Territories

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Israel about the denial of travel authorisation to Palestinian residents referred for medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip. [184286]

Dr. Howells: According to the World Health Organisation, 216 patients crossed from Gaza to Israel/the West Bank for further treatment via the Erez crossing, which remained open for this purpose, between 18 and 28 January. The UK believes that there is an urgent and pressing need to overcome the obstacles to re-opening all of Gaza's crossings, for humanitarian goods, trade and people. We are concerned about the lack of access to proper medical care and the difficulty in leaving Gaza to receive treatment. The Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) has expressed serious concern over the continued closure of major crossing points. The UN is actively involved in trying to find a solution. The EU has called

> "on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza".

On 17 January, I raised these concerns with the Israeli ambassador. Our embassy in Tel Aviv also continues to raise our concerns on a regular basis. On 21 January, my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development voiced their concerns. In a joint statement, they stated:

> "We do not support Israel's decision to close all crossings to Gaza".

On 24 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called Foreign Minister Livni and reiterated these concerns.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip in halting rocket attacks on Israeli territory. [184287]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made it clear in a joint statement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 21 January that:

> "Israeli security and justice for Palestinians will not be achieved by cutting off fuel or by firing rockets. Both sides have a responsibility to support the Peace Process launched at Annapolis. The situation on the ground is an important part of this. Palestinian security efforts and Israel's reopening of the Gaza crossings need to support each other and the drive for a long-term peace".

Kenya: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help protect United Kingdom passport holders working as missionaries in Kenya. [183932]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* All British nationals in Kenya are covered by our high commission's civil contingency plans. In compiling civil contingency plans, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's objective is to protect British nationals in situations which pose a serious threat to their safety. The plan includes information on the number and location of British nationals in the country and the use of wardens' networks to communicate with them. To ensure we can effectively communicate any changes in travel advice and other relevant information, British nationals are urged to register with our high commission in Nairobi. They can do this online or by phoning the high commission direct on (00) (254) (20) 284 4000.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the legal basis for the deployment of the EU's civilian mission to Kosovo. [178912]

David Miliband: We are satisfied that the mission is established on a sound legal basis.

The EU's European Security and Defence Policy rule of law mission to Kosovo will be based on the powers in the treaty on EU, drawing on the authority of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 as well as an invitation by the Kosovo government.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the final decision on the *(a)* date and *(b)* modalities of the EU mission for Kosovo will be made; and if he will make a statement. [183381]

David Miliband: We are working intensively with our international partners in the EU and UN to bring the Kosovo status process through to rapid completion.

The political decision to deploy the EU's European Security and Defence Policy rule of law mission to Kosovo was taken at the European Council on 14 December 2007. The EU underlined that it stands ready to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region and in implementing a settlement defining Kosovo's future status.

National Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [184213]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and Agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Pakistan: Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what co-ordination the Government is undertaking with the governments of *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Iran on anti-narcotics policies. [183591]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government remain committed to engagement with the Governments of both Pakistan and Iran to tackle the flows of opiates from Afghanistan.

The UK has supported the work of the Pakistan government to update its drugs strategy ("Masterplan") and earmarked US $80,000 of its contribution to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for consultancy input. to its development. The UK provides diplomatic and political support to the Pakistan government's counter-narcotics (CN) work, including through some £800,000 in the last three years to train officers of the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and to provide them with equipment. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, when he was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced on 8 March 2006 that the UK had agreed to gift two helicopters to the ANF for CN work. Delivery is expected in the early spring of this year. The UK Serious Organised Crime Agency enjoys operational co-operation with its Pakistani partners on counter-narcotics issues.

The UK has also contributed to the work of the UNODC in Iran. With the support of the Government of Iran, the UNODC has developed a strategy to build international support for tackling drugs demand and trafficking of opiates in Iran. The UK has contributed £500,000 to the UNODC in the last three years for this purpose with a particular focus on the provision of equipment and training of officers combating the trafficking of opiates on Iran's eastern border with Afghanistan. Additionally, we have supplied bilaterally some £30,000 of equipment for policing the eastern border.

The Government further engages to support a number of multilateral fora in which the policies and operations of governments in this region are co-ordinated and developed. The Paris Pact, organised by the UNODC, brings together those donor and beneficiary nations which are committed to tackle the drugs flows from Afghanistan to Europe; a database organised by the UNODC collates and co-ordinates the contributions of the donor community and matches these with the identified needs of countries on the trafficking routes. The Afghan government's work on the Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration (GNRD) on CN, agreed in Berlin on 1 April 2004 and in which the UK acts in an observer role, brings together all immediately neighbouring nations and commits them to work with each other and with Afghanistan to develop CN work. The UK is supporting the Ministry of Counter Narcotics' plans to hold a further GNRD meeting this year.

Terrorism

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed abroad as a result of terrorist activity in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country in which such incidents occurred. [178913]

Dr. Howells: Our records show that the number of UK citizens injured and killed aboard as a consequence of terrorist activity in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the country in which the incidents occurred, is as follows:

	Number of deaths	*Number injured*
Afghanistan	1	0
Russia	4	0
Greece	1	0
USA	67	0
Indonesia	29	33
Turkey	4	19
Iraq	64	81
Saudi Arabia	6	1
Spain	0	5
Egypt	11	7
Qatar	1	0
Israel	1	0
Jordan	1	0
Thailand	0	4
Pakistan	0	1
Maldives	0	2
Bangladesh	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	2

These figures are for both British and dual British nationals. They include British nationals working for private security firms killed or injured in Iraq or Afghanistan, but do not include British nationals who were killed or injured in the armed forces.

To the best of our knowledge the figures provided are accurate. However, it is possible that we are unaware of some cases, especially injuries. Prior to 2001 we did not keep separate statistics for deaths and injury as a result of terrorist incidents.

Treaties: Ammunition

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is of the Oslo and UN Convention on Conventional Weapons organisations for the removal of all cluster munitions; and what progress is being made on such removal. [184532]

Dr. Howells: Neither the Oslo Process or the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) have the aim of the removal of all cluster munitions. The Oslo Process aims to conclude "by 2008" a legally binding instrument to prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. Detailed consideration of a draft text of a treaty will begin at a meeting in Wellington (18-22 February). Negotiations will conclude in Dublin (19-30 May). A signing ceremony is expected to be held in Oslo in the autumn.

At the CCW Meeting of State Parties in November 2007 a negotiating mandate on cluster munitions was agreed. Under this mandate a Group of Governmental Experts was tasked to negotiate a proposal to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and report on progress to the next Meeting of State Parties in November 2008. Our aim, and that of our EU partners, is for the CCW to adopt a legally binding instrument by the end of 2008.

The UK's active participation in both the CCW and Oslo Process demonstrates our continuing commitment to address the humanitarian concerns raised by cluster munitions.

Treaties: Nuclear Weapons

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives the Government plans to undertake to ensure the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. [184303]

Dr. Howells: The UK considers a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty to be a top priority for multilateral disarmament and we will continue to push for the start of negotiations without pre-conditions at the Conference on Disarmament (CD). As the holder of one of the six CD presidencies in 2008 we will work with like minded countries to bring on board those states unable to agree to the start of negotiations in 2007. We will also continue to lobby these states directly.

UK Visas: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget of UK Visas was in 2006-07; and how these resources were allocated by main budget heading. [183525]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas' total costs of £202 million in financial year 2006-07 were fully recovered from income generated from visa fees and allocated under the following budget headings:

	£ million
Pay related expenditure	62.6
Project expenditure	52.5
Depreciation and capital charge	9.6
Indirect costs (including management and support overheads)	76.9

UK Visas: Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how long the UKvisas telephone service has been suspended. [183524]

Dr. Howells: The UKvisas telephone inquiry line has been suspended since 10 September 2007.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether alternative provision has been made to assist visa applicants following the suspension of the UKvisas telephone service. [183526]

Dr. Howells: The principle sources of information and advice for visa applicants, all of whom are overseas, are the central UKvisas website, posts' websites, and our commercial partners' websites and telephone inquiry lines. Some posts also have telephone inquiry services.

In the UK we now provide an enhanced e-mail service that aims to reply to e-mails within one working day. Most of these queries are from sponsors and other interested parties in the UK rather than visa applicants, who are guided to their local post or commercial partner. UKvisas website now has more and improved links. Its recorded telephone message now has more information, including referring callers to Border and Immigration Agency telephone numbers when appropriate.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to reinstate the UKvisas telephone service. [183527]

Dr. Howells: We are currently looking at the future for this service to callers from the UK and aim to conclude an internal review by the end of the financial year.

UN Resolutions: Frontiers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1720W, on UN resolutions: frontiers, how many further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006) from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons. [178905]

David Miliband: The answer given to the right hon. Member by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1719W, noted that two notifications had been received from member states of travel by individuals designated in the Annexes to UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007), in March 2007. No further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006) from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons.

Vasily Aleksanyan

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Russian government on the medical treatment of Vasily Aleksanyan; and if he will make a statement. [184391]

Mr. Jim Murphy: While there has been some improvement in recent years, conditions in Russian detention centres and treatment of prisoners continue to be below desirable standards, as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2006 Human Rights Annual report noted in some detail.

In EU and bilateral human rights consultations with the Russian government, the UK regularly raises concerns about ongoing human rights violations, including individual cases. We note that Russian human rights ombudsman, Vladimir Lukin, has sent written representations to the Prosecutor-General's Office and the Federal Penal Service about the case.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Active Places Website

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* total hits and *(b)* unique visitors the active places website had in each of the last three years. [182741]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not record the number of 'hits' on the active places website. Instead, it records only the number of visitors who actually use the tools and applications on the site. In each of the last three years these figures have been as follows:

	Visitors
2005	161,506
2006	204,348
2007	218,378

Arts

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to introduce free weeks for dance, music and theatrical performances at publicly-funded entertainment venues in England; what estimate he has made of the annual cost of free weeks; and how many venues he expects to participate. [183411]

Margaret Hodge: This is one of the recommendations in Sir Brian McMaster's report on "Supporting Excellence in the Arts", published on 10 January 2008. My officials are now considering the report in detail and considering how it could be implemented. No conclusions have been reached on the cost of free weeks or which venues would participate.

Arts Council

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation was held about the criteria being used by the Arts Council to make funding reductions to certain organisations; when a full list of the organisations that are to receive funding reductions will be released; and how many organisations *(a)* serving rural communities and *(b)* in Oxfordshire are to receive funding reductions. [182759]

Andy Burnham: The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them. Their fundamental criteria are set out in their Royal Charter

> "to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts [and] to increase accessibility of the arts to the public in England."

In February 2007 the Arts Council created detailed guidance on how they would develop their investment strategy for 2008/9-2010/11. That guidance said that the Council would give particular priority to the following:

> achieving a portfolio of effective and thriving organisations;
>
> increasing engagement in the arts across the population;
>
> delivering greater arts activity and presence in our emerging priority places;
>
> delivering the recommendations of Turning Point, the Arts Council's strategic review of the visual arts sector.

The Arts Council informed their regularly funded organisations of this in May 2007 and of their intention to provide the majority of organisations with at least an inflation increase in funding, and that this would be achieved by reducing the size of their portfolio of regularly funded organisations.

The Arts Council did not hold any consultation about these criteria specifically. However, it held a public value inquiry, the Arts Debate, between October 2006 and September 2007. The inquiry considered how people think and feel about the arts in England and their priorities for public funding. The Arts Council are incorporating the results of the enquiry into their corporate planning.

The Arts Council have said the following in response to requests to see the names of the organisations listed in their proposals:

> "Our proposals for non-renewal of funding cannot be made available until our National and Regional Councils make final decisions. This information is considered confidential and commercially sensitive during the response period. This is especially so in the case of a recommendation that might be overturned by the National Council or a Regional Council. Regularly funded organisations who have a right to respond to our recommendation, should be able to do so freely without fear that our intention to reduce or stop their funding is potentially unnecessarily, and without their consent, released into the public domain. A full announcement will be made at the beginning of February."

Betting: Taxation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many fixed-odds betting terminals there are in use; and how much tax revenue was generated by such machines in each of the last three tax years. [184381]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission annual report 2006-07 reported that there were 24,500 fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) located in licensed betting offices in 2006. These are the latest available figures.

FOBTs are now classified as category B2 gaming machines under the Gambling Act 2005. Casinos can offer B2 gaming machines, as part of their entitlement to a maximum of 20 category B gaming machines. We do not hold figures for the number of B2 gaming machines that casinos make available.

Tax revenue generated by gaming machines is a matter for HM Treasury.

Broadcasting: Visually Impaired

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the merits of audio description on television programmes for people with a visual impairment; and if he will make a statement. [183332]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Communications Act sets minimum targets for audio description of programmes by broadcasters. However, it is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that these requirements are met

Ofcom have responsibility for assessing audio description usage on television programmes. Guidance and best practice for broadcasters on providing access services, which include audio description, is set out in Ofcom's Code on Television Access Services.

Ofcom's Television Access Services Review, published in 2006, stated that audio description was highly valued by those that had used it and had the potential to benefit many more people than those who currently used it. An Audio Description Awareness Campaign facilitated by Ofcom will be launched by television broadcasters and the RNIB on 1 February 2008 to encourage take up of this valuable service.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will *(a)* take steps to ensure broadcasters are aware of the benefits of audio description to viewers with a visual impairment and *(b)* encourage broadcasters to provide more audio-described programmes. [183333]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Communications Act sets minimum targets for audio description of programmes by broadcasters. However, it is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that these requirements are met.

It is also Ofcom's duty to ensure broadcasters are taking effective steps to publicise awareness of their audio description services. In this regard, we welcome the Audio Description Awareness Campaign facilitated by Ofcom that will be launched by television broadcasters and the RNIB on 1 February 2008. During the six-week campaign, more than 70 television channels will broadcast promotions explaining how to find out more about this valuable service.

Ofcom's most recent report on the provision of access services shows that most channels continue to exceed (in many cases substantially) their obligations to provide audio description.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department met the target in the sustainable operations on the government estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [176926]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has a detailed energy plan which identifies potential carbon savings of 562 tonnes by March 2009. We hope this will help us to be more successful in ensuring sustainability as we have not met the target set for April 2007.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176023]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department *(a)* does not store or *(b)* process any personal data overseas, nor does it have any plans to do so.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176482]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183184]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not had any ministerial residences in the last 10 years.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on establishing a television channel to provide information on the digital switchover. [178745]

Andy Burnham: A proposal for a rolling television service was mentioned in the Ofcom Consumer Panel report, 'Going digital: supporting consumers through digital switchover', published December 2007, which my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell), received.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Visually Impaired

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will ensure that the experience of people with a visual impairment is taken fully into account in the preparations for digital switchover and that *(a)* access to the necessary support and equipment and *(b)* accessible information on services is provided and broadcasters are informed of steps they can take to improve programme accessibility. [183331]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Government and Digital UK have consulted the RNIB to understand any issues of concern to people with visual impairments and how best to communicate with them and help them through the switchover process. We will continue to do so as the switchover programme is rolled out.

Blind or partially sighted people are one of the groups eligible for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme which provides help with equipment, installation and aftercare support. Audio Description (AD), an additional narration on TV programmes that describes on-screen action, is accessible through the equipment provided by the scheme. Help is free of charge to those on income support/pension credit. Others will pay a £40 charge.

Guidance and best practice on how broadcasters can improve programme accessibility is given in Ofcom's Code on Television Access Services, which includes information on audio description.

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which English Heritage sites *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited since appointment; and on what dates. [181949]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has not yet visited any English Heritage sites in the short time since he took office. On his second day as Culture Secretary, he visited the International Slavery Museum which is situated on Liverpool's Albert Dock, part of the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site. His predecessor, the right hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) visited the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College, part of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, on 31 October 2007 for the launch of Heritage Counts.

I visited Castle Acre Priory on 8 July 2007 and Stonehenge on 6 September 2007. I have, of course, visited a number of sites in my personal capacity.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Sport has not visited any properties owned or managed by English Heritage in his official capacity.

Football

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to help community football clubs develop facilities and membership in West Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [183412]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 2002, Sport England has awarded almost £70.2 million to the Football Foundation to support grassroots capital and revenue projects. This includes £11.7 million from the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) which helps community sports clubs to develop their sports facilities. We do not hold details of CCDP awards made specifically in West Lancashire, however, in Lancashire, £1.6 million has been awarded to community football clubs.

Over 4,500 community sports clubs are also benefiting from tax relief through the Community Amateur Sports Club initiative. This has saved sports clubs an estimated £22.8 million over the last five years—allowing clubs to put money back into sport, including for sports facilities. In Lancashire, 97 sports clubs, including 12 football clubs, have benefited to date.

Gambling

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to ensure that the gambling industry promotes responsible gambling in the last five years. [184018]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Act 2005 places the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling as one of the principal objectives of gambling regulation for the first time. The Act also establishes a powerful new regulator, the Gambling Commission, responsible for ensuring UK gambling operators are meeting the Government's licensing objectives.

All gambling operators must comply with tough social responsibility measures or risk losing their licence. These measures include procedures to prevent under-age gambling, procedures for self-exclusion, information about how to access help in relation to problem gambling, and a commitment to contribute to research, education and treatment of problem gambling. However if there is evidence that the objectives of the Act are not being met, the Government have wide-ranging powers to introduce further regulations and restrictions.

Horserace Totaliser Board

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [183865]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: The Government received at the end of September 2007, and are considering, a final bid from a consortium of racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote itself. The Government will announce shortly how they intends to proceed.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which his Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183055]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has not provided any revenue payments, capital grants or supported borrowing to Kent county council, Thanet district council or Dover district council in 2007-08.

Licensing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cumulative impact areas, as defined in guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, there are in England and Wales, broken down by local authority area. [178827]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The data which the Department for Culture, Media and Sport holds on local authority cumulative impact areas were published in the Department's licensing statistical bulletin on 8 November 2007 and are set out in the following table. The data cover cumulative impact areas in force on 31 March 2007 and are based upon a response rate of 80 per cent. of licensing authorities.

Licensing authority	*Cumulative impact areas*
Leeds	4
Bexley	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	3
Bristol	2
Bromley	2
Fareham	2
Merton	2
Pembrokeshire	2
Portsmouth	2
Richmond upon Thames	2
Scarborough	2
Trafford	2
Warwick	2
Aylesbury Vale	1
Birmingham	1
Blackpool	1
Blaenau Gwent	1
Bournemouth	1
Bridgend	1
Cardiff	1
Colchester	1
Croydon	1
Dudley	1
Ealing	1
Easington	1
East Hampshire	1
East Staffordshire	1
Eastbourne	1
Hackney	1
Hartlepool	1
Herefordshire	1
Hinckley and Bosworth	1
Isles of Scilly	1
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1
Lancaster	1
Leicester	1
Lichfield	1
Lincoln	1
Middlesbrough	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1
Nottingham	1
Oadby and Wigston	1
Oxford	1
Preston	1
Restormel	1
Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
South Tyneside	1
Southend-on-Sea	1
Torbay	1
Wakefield	1
Watford	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	1
Worthing	1
York	1

Note:

The number of "Cumulative Impact Areas" published on 8 November 2007 for two licensing authorities were incorrect: Melton Licensing Authority had recorded the wrong number of cumulative impact areas as six; it has been amended to zero in the revised statistical bulletin published on 15 January 2008; Warwick's number of cumulative impact areas was incorrectly inputted as four; this has been corrected to two in the revised statistical bulletin published on 15 January 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 110W, on Members: correspondence, when he expect to reply substantively to the letter of 16 August 2007 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford concerning his constituent Mr. C. Metcalf. [183437]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: I met with key representatives of Ice Hockey on 30th January. Following these discussions, I will be sending a substantive reply in the next week, to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford concerning his constituent Mr. C. Metcalf.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proposals he has to invite members of the public to sit on the boards of publicly-funded museums, galleries and other arts organisations; and if he will make a statement. [183447]

Margaret Hodge: Building on the recommendations of the McMaster Review, the Secretary of State and I will work with our non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) to ensure that boards have the right skills and experience to encourage excellence, innovation, and wider and deeper engagement with the sectors they represent.

We will work with our NDPBs, in particular the Arts Council and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, to consider the role of artists, practitioners, and members of the public on the boards of our cultural organisations.

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the change in the number of playing fields of an area of less than 0.4 hectares in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [183923]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: Information on the change in the number of playing fields of less than 0.4 hectares is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has committed to consulting this year on reducing from 0.4 hectares to 0.2 hectares the threshold at which Sport England must be consulted when a planning application for development is submitted.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations his Department has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* members of the public and *(c)* others on the portable antiquities scheme since 1 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [183531]

Margaret Hodge: Between 1 December 2007 and 30 January 2008, this Department received *(a)* 130 representations from hon. Members and *(b)* 98 representations from members of the public on the subject of the portable antiquities scheme.

For the purposes of the Department's correspondence statistics we do not differentiate between letters from the public and letters from organisations.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place in relation to the Portable Antiquities Scheme to provide the advice on recording finds previously supplied by schemes funds advisers; whether those posts were abolished due to cost-saving measures; and if he will make a statement. [183833]

Margaret Hodge: The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is administered by the British Museum (BM) on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Any decisions about the delivery of the scheme are, therefore, a matter for these organisations. The total number of staff employed by the PAS in financial year 2007-08 increased by four. It is the intention of both the MLA and the BM to maintain a national scheme in 2008-09 and beyond.

Publishing

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to Ofcom's proposal to establish a public service publisher. [178760]

Andy Burnham: The Government welcome the work Ofcom has done to develop the idea of a public service publisher and notes that it proposes to consider the issue further as part of its current review of public service broadcasting. Ofcom's conclusions in this area will be a key input to our review of the future funding of public service broadcasting. The Government's Convergence Think Tank will also be considering ways in which universal access to high quality content can be sustained.

Sport

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards his Department's public service agreement target to increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above from priority groups; and what steps he has taken to ensure this target is met. [182700]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey is being used to measure progress against this public service agreement.

The most recent results were published in December 2007 and are in the following tables. They provide a comparison between the baseline figures and the second year results of the survey.

We are working closely with the cultural sector's strategic delivery bodies—Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council—to ensure that we maximise our impact on increasing participation rates.

These bodies deliver through a range of programmes and initiatives with cultural organisations at regional and local level. This includes:

investment in programmes such as Renaissance in the Regions, which has seen visits to local museums and galleries by people from the PSA3 priority groups up by over 30 per cent. since 2002-03;

free admission to formerly charging sponsored museums in England—where attendance has gone up by 98 per cent. since 2001;

record investment in Arts Council England's regularly funded organisations of £326 million this year; and

Heritage Open Days, which receives its core funding from English Heritage, where 850,000 people visited some of 3,500 buildings last year, making it England's largest voluntary cultural event.

Sport England have been working to increase the number of participants in sport through a range of interventions across sports organisations at a regional and local level, including national governing bodies, county sports partnerships, community sports networks, sports clubs and others. Since 1997-98, over £4 billion has been invested through Government and the Lottery on sport in England.

Participation will be an integral part of Sport England's new strategy to build a world-class community sport infrastructure.

Historic environment

The historic environment indicator is defined as at least one attendance at a designated site during the past 12 months.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	50.7	48.3
Limiting disability	59.5	60.2
Lower socio-economic	57.1	57.3
All adults	69.9	69.3

Museums and galleries

The museums and galleries indicator is defined as at least one attendance at a museum or gallery during the past 12 months.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	35.5	33.6
Limiting disability	32.1	31.1
Lower socio-economic	28.3	28.2
All adults	42.3	41.5

Arts attendance

The arts attendance indicator is defined as attendance at two or more different types of arts events during the past 12 months.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	23.5	22.8
Limiting disability	24.1	24.2
Lower socio-economic	17.4	17.4
All adults	33.7	33.0

Arts participation

The arts participation indicator is defined as participation in two or more different types of arts activities during the past 12 months.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	20.8	20.1
Limiting disability	18.9	19.8
Lower socio-economic	15.3	14.3
All adults	24.1	22.8

Moderate level intensity sport

The moderate level intensity sport indicator is defined as participation in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on three separate days during the past week.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	19.2	19.6
Limiting disability	9.5	9.4
Lower socio-economic	15.2	15.3
Women	18.5	18.3
All adults	20.9	21.5

Active sport

The active sport indicator is defined as at least one occasion of participation in an active sport during the past four weeks.

		Percentage
	Year 1	*Year 2*
Black and minority ethnic	53.3	51.9
Limiting disability	32.3	31.2
Lower socio-economic	43.4	42.2
Women	47.7	46.2
All adults	53.7	53.4

Sports: Greyhounds

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1402W, to the hon. Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) on sports: greyhounds, whether he plans to exempt greyhound tracks from regulatory requirements under the Gambling Act 2005; and what deregulation is planned arising from the objective for the industry to be self-regulated. [178770]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The Gambling Act has included a number of deregulatory measures to assist the greyhound industry, including ending the five times entry rule for on-course bookmakers and lifting the ban on off-course pool betting. We do not anticipate any significant further gambling deregulation of greyhound tracks arising from Lord Donoughue's recommendations.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what powers his Department has to ensure that TV Licensing carries out its duties to detect those not paying a television licence fee in a proportionate and equitable manner. [183931]

Andy Burnham: Under the BBC's Royal Charter, it is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to ensure that arrangements for the collection of the licence fee are efficient, appropriate and proportionate. There is no provision for Government to intervene in such matters.

Tourism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the provisional 2006 productivity data for the tourism and leisure industry, referred to in his Department's Autumn Performance Report 2007. [184020]

Margaret Hodge: Productivity data for the tourism and leisure industry is estimated from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). As referred to in the DCMS Autumn Performance Report 2007, the provisional ABI data for 2006 were released by the ONS in December 2007.

An update of the tourism and leisure industry productivity target to incorporate this data will be published in the Department's Annual Report—scheduled for release by 19 May 2008.

As in previous years, the Autumn Performance Report will include the final 2006 productivity data following the release of the validated ABI results in June 2008.

VisitBritain: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what VisitBritain's overseas advertising budget was in each year since 1997. [184021]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain's annual budgets for overseas marketing work were as follows (in £ million, and including VisitBritain's predecessor bodies—the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourism Council—up to 2002-03):

£ million

	Total	*Overseas budget*	*Domestic budget*
1997-98	44.7	35.0	9.7
1998-99	45.7	35.0	10.7
1999-2000	47.8	36.0	11.8
2000-01	48.0	37.0	11.0
2001-02	45.1	35.5	9.6
2002-03	47.1	35.5	11.6
2003-04	47.9	35.5	12.4
2004-05	48.4	35.5	12.9
2005-06	48.9	35.5	13.4
2006-07	49.9	35.5	14.4
2007-08	49.9	35.5	14.4

An additional £19 million in Government funding was made available for VisitBritain's Million Visitor overseas marketing campaign in 2001-02, to support the industry following the foot and mouth disease outbreak of 2001-02, and the events of 9/11.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding will be allocated to VisitBritain to encourage tourism associated with the 2012 London Olympic Games *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each year to 2012. [184019]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS and VisitBritain are working to maximise the impact of public funding for 2012-related tourism work. VisitBritain is currently leading a Strategic Review to examine how we can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the expenditure of £350 million invested by public bodies to support tourism. DCMS and VisitBritain are considering the best mechanisms for using funding at all levels to promote the UK at home and in overseas markets, between now and the 2012 games. This includes the best use of VisitBritain's funding allocation from DCMS.

The review follows the publication of the DCMS-led Tourism Strategy for 2012 last September, and includes full consultation with devolved, regional, and local government, and the tourism industry.

TRANSPORT

A1

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to make a decision on the inspector's report on the Dishforth to Barton A1 motorway scheme; and when she expects the construction to start. [183703]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are considering a number of issues on this scheme including the inspector's report, the scheme cost and delivery timetable. We are working through these issues as quickly as possible and expect to be in a position to announce the way forward for this scheme by spring 2008. Subject to the scheme orders being confirmed and the availability of funding, the earliest date for start of works on site would be autumn 2008.

Airports: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research her Department has commissioned on the economic consequences of building new *(a)* airports and *(b)* runways. [181621]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The economic appraisal of options for additional UK airport capacity, including both a new airport and new runways at existing airports, supporting the 2003 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper was reported in 'Passenger Forecasts—Additional Analysis'. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/air/docs/passengerforecastsadditional5673

Updated economic appraisal of options supported in the White Paper was reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts'. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The Department for Transport also jointly commissioned the 2006 Oxford Economic Forecasting report 'The Economic Contribution of the Aviation Industry in the UK', available at:

http://www.oef.com/Free/pdfs/Aviation2006Final.pdf

Aviation: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of the proposed EU emissions trading scheme on regional airlines providing services to remote communities; and what steps she plans to take to prevent the scheme undermining the viability of such services. [178665]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The impact on regional airlines has been assessed as part of the UK's policy development on this issue. The UK recognises the importance of air services to remote communities and therefore welcomes the recently agreed Council text which would exempt all flights operating under a public service obligation with an annual capacity threshold of less than 30,000 seats.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average carbon emissions were per UK air passenger in each year since 1997. [178148]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides estimates of aviation carbon dioxide emissions per passenger for all domestic and international air passengers flying from UK airports in each year from 1997 to 2005.

Estimate of average CO_2 emissions per passenger flying from UK airports, 1997 to 2005

	Domestic aviation			International aviation		
	Carbon dioxide (Million tonnes)	*Departing passengers (Million)*	*CO_2 per passenger (Tonnes)*	*Carbon dioxide (Million tonnes)*	*Departing passengers (Million)*	*CO_2 per passenger (Tonnes)*
1997	1.49	16.0	0.1	22.70	57.4	0.4
1998	1.62	16.7	0.1	25.26	62.7	0.4
1999	1.80	17.5	0.1	27.45	66.7	0.4
2000	1.96	18.6	0.1	30.25	71.4	0.4
2001	2.06	19.2	0.1	29.49	71.5	0.4
2002	2.07	21.0	0.1	28.94	73.4	0.4
2003	2.11	22.9	0.1	29.64	77.1	0.4
2004	2.30	24.2	0.1	33.13	83.6	0.4
2005	2.46	25.1	0.1	35.01	89.0	0.4

Notes:

1. The emissions figures in the table are in the common format of 'weight of carbon dioxide'; to convert to 'weight of carbon' figures should be multiplied by a factor of 12/44.
2. Domestic aviation includes all departures from UK airports flying to another UK airport. International aviation includes all departures from a UK airport flying to a destination outside of the UK. These will carry both UK and foreign passengers.
3. The aviation CO_2 emissions capture only those from the first leg of a flight (e.g. emissions for a passenger flying from London to Australia via Singapore will only reflect London to Singapore).
4. The aviation CO_2 emissions are only those from departing aircraft (excluding military aircraft) and therefore the figures in the table do not reflect emissions from surface access nor emissions from airport buildings. Emissions from freighter aircraft have been allocated to passengers in these illustrative figures.
5. The CO_2 emissions do not account for non-CO_2 climate change effects of aviation emissions.

Sources:

Carbon dioxide emissions, table 5 of DEFRA's Statistical Release "UK Emissions of Greenhouse Gases".

Passengers - Civil Aviation Authority statistics.

The average CO_2 per passenger figures in the aforementioned table have been calculated by dividing total CO_2 emissions from departing flights by the number of departing passengers. They do not therefore reflect a weighted average of emissions to account for the relative number of flights flying different trip lengths. The level of emissions per passenger will be affected by such factors as load factors, type of aircraft used, fuel efficiency changes, etc.

Aviation: Pakistan

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the safety of UK-based aircraft crews flying into Islamabad. [180225]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government responsibility for the safety of UK citizens travelling overseas is discharged through the provision of travel advice by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The safety and security of air crews while in any location around the world is a matter for the airlines, as their employer.

The Department for Transport requires UK airlines operating overseas to put appropriate security measures in place to protect their aircraft operation at each location to which they fly. These arrangements, including those in Pakistan, are regularly assessed.

Cycling: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving cyclists in each constituency in England in each of the last five years. [183644]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cyclist for each parliamentary constituency in England for 2002 to 2006 has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Driving Tests

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 624, on Department for Transport data storage, whether the data on the hard disc drive mislaid by Pearson Driving Assessments had been processed. [176273]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data held on the hard disc drive had been processed.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether plans are in place to change the regulations for the renewal of driving licences for people aged over 70 years; and if she will make a statement. [183965]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are currently no plans to change the regulations for the renewal of driving licences for drivers aged 70 and over.

Eurostar

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys were taken on Eurostar by staff of her Department in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* business premier, *(b)* standard, *(c)* leisure select and *(d)* other ticket types. [178844]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost as the financial systems used by the Department for Transport to record rail travel do not differentiate Eurostar travel.

Eurostar North Pole Depot: Greater London

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding from the public purse has been provided for the former Eurostar North Pole depot in West London. [183456]

Mr. Tom Harris: The asset transferred from Eurostar (UK) Ltd. to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. on 31 January, under the arrangements for providing Eurostar (UK) Ltd. with a new depot at Temple Mills. This transfer involved no costs to the public purse. BRB (Residuary) Ltd. is now responsible for managing all the costs and benefits of North Pole depot.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will publish the research informing the assumptions made on the fleet mix expected to be using Heathrow in 2020 in *(a)* the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow study, *(b)* the consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow" and *(c)* in the work done to prepare for 2003 White Paper on the Future of Air Transport; [170701]

(2) in what respect the assumptions made on the fleet mix expected to be using Heathrow in 2020 used in the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow Study differ from those used in the work done to prepare for the 2003 White Paper on the Future of Air Transport. [170702]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The basis of air traffic forecasts and fleet mix assumptions for both *(a)* and *(b)* is explained in annex C of the consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport". The fleet profile for modelling purposes was based on BAA's fleet mix assumptions, informed by historic trends on fleet replacement and discussions with major airlines about likely future trends. The predicted fleet profile in future years is illustrated in the supporting technical reports—for example, the "Emission Summaries and Emissions Methodology" reports, and chapter 2 and table 2.3 in the "Revised Future Aircraft Noise Exposure Estimates" report by the Civil Aviation Authority. All these documents are available via the Department's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/heathrowconsultation

Fleet mix assumptions at the time of the White Paper are set out in the equivalent CAA report 0307 (December 2003).

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects households in wards in Putney who have not already done so to receive a copy of the consultation document, Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport; and if she will make a statement. [183607]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The criterion applied in issuing copies of the Heathrow consultation summary and response form was: those living within the 57dBA contour; more specifically, those most directly affected by any development at the airport. On that basis, copies were sent to 217,346 households, of which 9,153 are in the hon. Member's constituency. If the hon. Member believes that households within her constituency meeting this criterion did not receive a copy of the summary and response form in the distribution, we will look into this and, if necessary, send out summary material to these households.

In line with Cabinet Office guidance, the consultation document and supporting materials are freely available to anyone with an interest from the Department's website. Printed copies may also be obtained via our dedicated call centre.

M40: Accidents

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* serious injuries and *(b)* fatalities took place on the M40 motorway between junctions 3 and 5 in each year since 2001 for which figures are available. [184294]

Mr. Tom Harris: The accident figures requested are as follows:

M40 Junctions 3-5 January 2001 to March 2007 (junctions included)

Accidents

Severity	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Fatal	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
Serious	8	4	11	12	10	5	1
Total	8	5	11	14	11	5	1

M40 Junctions 3-5 January 2001 to March 2007 (excluding junctions)

Accidents

Severity	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Fatal	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
Serious	8	4	10	12	8	5	1
Total	8	5	10	14	9	5	1

2007 data only go up to March. No verified data are currently available from April 2007 to date.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she has made in discussions with her EU counterparts on the Government's policy that motorists in the UK should not be required to use daytime running lights; and if she will make a statement. [183786]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK has been successful in arguing against the introduction of mandatory use of dipped headlamps during daylight hours by drivers of existing vehicles. This outcome has been welcomed by motorcycle user groups.

However, from early 2011 all new types of passenger car and light van will have to be fitted with dedicated daytime running lamps in accordance with the relevant European directive. By summer 2012 all new vehicle types will have to be so fitted.

Official Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Government's ministerial car fleet are low sulphur vehicles. [181917]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the 85 cars currently in the ministerial fleet provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, 16 (18.82 per cent.) are diesel powered cars capable of running on low sulphur diesel.

The remaining fleet consists of 16 (18.82 per cent.) petrol powered cars and 53 (62.35 per cent.) hybrid petrol/electric cars.

Railway Stations: Greater London

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on changing the names of London railway stations. [183763]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any proposal to change a station name is primarily a matter for train operators, Network Rail and London Underground as appropriate. Name changes have, though, happened only infrequently in the past and that is likely to continue to be the case in future.

Railways

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage people to use rail transport; and if she will consider introducing financial incentives to encourage people to travel by rail. [183928]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: Marketing of rail services is primarily a matter for train operators. They do this in a variety of ways, many of which involve offering financial incentives through discounted fares.

Unprecedented investment in the railways since 1997 has resulted in an increase in patronage of around 40 per cent.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to accept the recommendations of the Rail Passengers Council—The Right Train? report of March 2005 on the use of class 450 trains on the Portsmouth mainline by South West Trains. [184072]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 542W.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents in England in 2006 involved drivers who were 17 years of age. [183639]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2006, there were 5,860 reported personal injury road accidents in England involving at least one driver aged 17 years old.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving *(a)* pedestrians and *(b)* road freight in each region in England in each of the last five years. [183645]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving *(a)* at least one pedestrian casualty and *(b)* at least one heavy goods vehicle in each Government Office Region in England for 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following tables.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedestrian casualty: England 2002-06

	Number of accidents				
Government Office Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	1,570	1,543	1,442	1,399	1,286
North West	5,188	4,953	4,910	4,602	4,207
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,499	3,311	3,152	2,966	2,795
East Midlands	2,285	2,103	2,064	2,005	1,849
West Midlands	3,538	3,344	3,101	2,991	2,820
East of England	2,518	2,302	2,202	2,130	1,943
South East	4,159	3,743	3,737	3,487	3,336
London	7,238	6,900	6,206	5,852	5,390
South West	2,674	2,502	2,450	2,416	2,246
England	32,669	30,701	29,264	27,848	25,872

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle: England 2002-06

	Number of accidents				
Government Office Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	337	377	332	350	313
North West	1,444	1,400	1,395	1,274	1,223
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,115	1,104	1,121	968	948
East Midlands	1,252	1,140	1,214	1,077	991
West Midlands	1,275	1,239	1,278	1,210	1,112
East of England	1,571	1,569	1,433	1,446	1,303
South East	2,032	1,932	1,890	1,796	1,777
London	1,098	1,042	907	962	856
South West	931	1,052	818	905	795
England	11,055	10,855	10,388	9,988	9,318

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* traffic accidents and *(b)* traffic accidents involving road freight there were on the (i) M1, (ii) M2, (iii) M6, (iv) M20, (v) M25, (vi) M60, (vii) M62, (viii) A14 and (ix) A1(M) in each of the last five years. [183646]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1440W.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will publish on the roads section of her Department's website a list of each of the road schemes approved and funded by her Department with *(a)* the costs of each scheme at approval, *(b)* the latest ministerially approved costs and *(c)* the estimated carbon dioxide impact of each; [180640]

(2) if she will publish on the roads section of her Department's website the appraisal summary tables of the road schemes her Department has approved. [180641]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* We are currently reviewing the information provided about major road schemes on the Department's and Highways Agency's websites, including information on scheme cost estimates. I can confirm that it is our intention to provide website information on the cost estimates for all local authority and Highways Agency schemes which have received a funding approval.

I can also confirm that it is our intention to publish the latest appraisal summary table, as well as other relevant information for each local authority major scheme currently at an approval stage on the Department's website. Appraisal summary tables for Highways Agency schemes are already available within the project pages on the agency's website. Information on the carbon impacts of each scheme is provided in the scheme's appraisal summary table.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to allow non-cash payment methods for tolls levied on the M48 Severn Bridge; and if she will make a statement. [184388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We want it to be as convenient as possible for people to pay tolls and we are looking at how to solve the practical obstacles to credit card payments. A local working group made up from the Highways Agency, Welsh Assembly Government and Severn River Crossings plc was set up in November last year to work through the issues and come up with a way forward.

Further consideration will be given once the working group have submitted their findings and recommendations.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of charging tolls on vehicles travelling in both directions on the M48 Severn Bridge on the flow of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* all vehicles on the A48 in Gloucestershire. [184389]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W.

Taxis: Disabled

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons sections 32 to 36 of the Disability Discrimination Act (Taxi accessibility regulations) 1995 have not yet been brought into force. [184050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government recognise the vital role that taxis play in the transportation of disabled people and we are committed to delivering more accessible taxis. We need to choose the best way in which to deliver an increased number of taxis that are accessible to people with all types of disability.

Under sections 32 to 36 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Government have powers to regulate in this area. There are, however, advantages and disadvantages associated with regulation and, in light of the Government's better regulation agenda, I am currently re-evaluating all the options, both regulatory and non-regulatory. I will announce our proposals shortly.

In the meantime, we are encouraging taxi licensing authorities to ensure that local policies take account of the needs of all taxi users. The Department issued best practice guidance to local authorities in 2006. Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act also now applies to both hackney cabs and private hire vehicles and it gives disabled people a "right of access" to goods, services and facilities.

Taxi drivers now have to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people are able to use their vehicles, but they do not have to modify the vehicle itself. The Disability Rights Commission (now superseded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission) issued guidance in 2007 on what may be considered reasonable in relation to disabled people and access to taxis.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage changes she anticipates in transport-related carbon dioxide emissions by *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2050 under Government plans. [181585]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* Without accounting for the impact of policy measures, analysis suggests that emissions of carbon dioxide from UK transport would continue to increase to 2020. However, by implementing the policy measures quantified in the 2006 Climate Change programme and the 2007 Energy White Paper, domestic emissions from transport are projected to be up to 20 per cent. lower in 2020 than they would have been in the absence of these measures.

Because of the uncertainty of long-term forecasting, the Government have constructed a number of scenarios to model the costs of achieving long-term emission reductions. In the central scenario from the UK "MARKAL-Macro" model reported in the 2007 Energy White Paper, (under which the UK achieves a 60 per cent. reduction in domestic CO_2 emissions by 2050), the transport sector sees emission reductions from 2000 levels of about 5 per cent. by 2020, and of about 45 per cent. by 2050.

The results of this model are not "forecasts"; the model presents the most cost-effective way of achieving the target in 2050, given, for example, an analysis of what technology can in principle deliver.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the average carbon dioxide emissions per person per journey from London to *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Newcastle and *(d)* Edinburgh by (i) air, (ii) rail, (iii) lorry and (iv) car. [182550]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* Transport Direct (www.transportdirect.info) the Department's multi-modal journey planner, provides average CO_2 emissions per person for journeys within

Great Britain. The planner gives the following estimates of kg CO_2 per passenger:

London to	*Bristol*	*Birmingham*	*Newcastle*	*Edinburgh*
km	182	170	408	578
Air	[1]28.7	[1]26.9	64.5	91.3
Rail	10.9	10.3	24.6	34.8
Small car[2]	23.2	21.7	52.1	73.7
Large car[2]	46.7	43.8	105.1	148.7

[1] Journey by this mode is not possible but is calculated on average emissions for the relevant distance

[2] Assuming one occupant.

These figures do not include lorry travel as the Department does not collect figures on passengers travelling by this mode. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Company Reporting Guidelines (http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/pdf/envrpgas-annexes.pdf) give average emission factors per km for lorry journeys, separated by type of vehicle and laden factor (the extent to which the lorry is loaded to its maximum carrying capacity).

For example, the average CO_2 emissions from a 0 per cent. laden rigid HGV (carrying no load), travelling from London to Edinburgh, is approximately 359 kg. With a laden factor of 100 per cent., this average increases to about 517 kg. Actual emissions will vary depending on, for example, the particular vehicle, driving style and laden factor. Similar calculations can be made using the guidelines for journeys between any two points in the UK.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of the provision of laser eye surgery for personnel with visual defects to improve their operational effectiveness; [183121]

(2) what representations he has received from organisations and individuals on the provision of laser eye surgery for personnel with visual defects to improve their operational effectiveness. [183122]

Derek Twigg: For personnel in specified groups or professions, the MOD already provides certain refractive devices, including defence and respirator spectacles, corrective flying spectacles, and soft contact lenses.

Current departmental policy permits the majority of personnel in all three services to undergo certain forms of Corneal Refractive Surgery (CRS). Procedures which are in most cases permitted are Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK); Laser epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK); Laser in-situ keratomileusis (LASIK); and Intrastromal corneal ring segments (ICRS). Procedures not permitted are radial keratotomy (RK), astigmatic keratotomy (AK), or any form of invasive intraocular surgical procedure.

However, more stringent regulations apply to aircrew in all three services, for whom only PRK and LASEK are permitted.

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) have received informal, representations from a few companies offering to provide laser eye surgery for service personnel. There is evidence of improving safety and efficacy of laser eye surgery and DMS specialists are currently engaged in reviewing this evidence in the military context.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1580W, on armed forces: housing, by what date he expects *(a)* all, *(b)* 95 per cent. and *(c)* 90 per cent. of (i) single living accommodation bed-spaces and (ii) service families accommodation properties to be in the top grade for condition. [183623]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The position has not changed from my previous answer and there is nothing more that I can add at this time.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pension paid to a soldier of each rank was on retirement from the armed forces in England in 2006-07. [174711]

Derek Twigg: The tables give the standard pension entitlement, by years of service and rank, to those commissioned and non-commissioned Army personnel reaching their immediate pension point under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 in Financial Year 2006-07.

Commissioned Army personnel

£ per year

Years of reckonable service	*Captain and below*	*Major*	*Lieutenant Colonel*	*Colonel*	*Brigadier*
16	11,192	13,330	17,477	20,238	24,156
17	11,708	13,963	18,286	21,174	25,097
18	12,224	14,596	19,095	22,110	26,039
19	12,740	15,229	19,903	23,046	26,981
20	13,256	15,862	20,712	23,983	27,923
21	13,772	16,496	21,520	24,919	28,864
22	14,287	17,129	22,329	25,855	29,806
23	14,803	17,762	23,138	26,791	30,748
24	15,319	18,395	23,946	27,727	31,690
25	15,835	19,028	24,755	28,663	32,631
26	16,351	19,661	25,564	29,599	33,573
27	16,867	20,295	26,372	30,536	34,515

Commissioned Army personnel

£ per year

Years of reckonable service	*Captain and below*	*Major*	*Lieutenant Colonel*	*Colonel*	*Brigadier*
28	17,383	20,928	27,181	31,472	35,457
29	17,899	21,561	27,989	32,408	36,398
30	18,415	22,194	28,798	33,344	37,340
31	18,931	22,827	29,607	34,280	38,282
32	19,446	23,461	30,415	35,216	39,223
33	19,962	24,094	31,224	36,152	40,165
34	20,478	24,727	32,033	37,089	41,107

Non-commissioned Army personnel

£ per year

Years of reckonable service	*Lance Corporal and below*	*Corporal*	*Sergeant*	*Staff Sergeant*	*Warrant Officer Class 2*	*Warrant Officer Class 1*
22	6,624	8,545	9,367	10,671	11,392	12,114
23	6,855	8,843	9,694	11,043	11,790	12,537
24	7,086	9,141	10,021	11,416	12,188	12,960
25	7,318	9,439	10,348	11,788	12,585	13,383
26	7,549	9,738	10,675	12,161	12,983	13,805
27	7,780	10,036	11,002	12,533	13,381	14,228
28	8,011	10,334	11,329	12,906	13,778	14,651
29	8,243	10,632	11,656	13,278	14,176	15,074
30	8,474	10,931	11,983	13,651	14,574	15,497
31	8,705	11,229	12,310	14,023	14,971	15,920
32	8,936	11,527	12,637	14,396	15,369	16,342
33	9,167	11,825	12,964	14,768	15,767	16,765
34	9,399	12,124	13,291	15,141	16,164	17,188
35	9,630	12,422	13,618	15,513	16,562	17,611
36	9,861	12,720	13,945	15,886	16,960	18,034
37	10,092	13,018	14,272	16,258	17,357	18,457

Although a breakdown by rank is not available, the actual average annual pensions for the AFPS 1975 and 2005 schemes, paid in Financial Year 2006-07, were £16,641 for commissioned personnel and £5,976 for non-commissioned personnel. These figures include those who left before their immediate pension point but have, on reaching age 60, received their preserved AFPS pensions.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* date and *(c)* location was of each EU military training exercise in which British military personnel have taken part since 2004; and how many British military personnel participated in each. [183509]

Des Browne: EU policy is that it will only conduct Command Post Exercises, practising its Command and Control arrangements. British military personnel have taken part in two such exercises since 2004:

MILEX 05, which took place from 22 November-1 December 2005 in Mt. Valerien in France, where five British military augmentees participated, and in Ulm, Germany, where two British military augmentees participated.

MILEX 07, which took place from 7-15 June 2007 in Brussels, where one British military augmentee participated and in Enkoping, Sweden, where one British military augmentee participated.

DA Notices

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence advisory notices were issued in each of the last four quarters. [183871]

Des Browne *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The Secretary of the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC) has written to all UK editors to amplify the general guidance on the following occasions in relation to various DA notices:

	Letters
1 January to 31 March 2007	4
1 April to 30 June 2007	2
1 July to 30 September 2007	2
1 October to 31 December 2007	1

This corrects the information previously provided in my answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 937W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) where I stated that the Secretary of the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee had previously sent seven letters to all editors for 2007 up to October when he had in fact provided eight.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181846]

Derek Twigg: The MOD is determined to lead the way in reducing its carbon dioxide emissions. We have already made significant progress in this area by taking a range of actions including: improving building energy management and energy efficiency; working with the Carbon Trust to identify opportunities for energy efficiency improvements at the top 220 energy-consuming defence sites; making central funds available for estate emissions reduction projects and embedding pro-rata energy efficiency targets into service delivery agreements between the MOD Permanent Under-Secretary and the Department's management areas. We have also worked with our road vehicle fleet contractors to provide more energy-efficient vehicles and have offset emissions from business and ministerial flights.

Work in these areas will continue during 2008-09 and beyond. In addition, we will develop and implement a carbon neutrality strategy for the MOD office estate, increase our procurement of non-climate change levy electricity and use of on-site micro-renewable energy systems, and make staff more aware of the environmental impact of their travel through a new self-booking travel tool.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181525]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181590]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

ATHENA

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is expected, that the President of the European Council will convene and chair the meetings of the ATHENA Special Committee under the treaty of Lisbon if ratified; and if he will make a statement. [183518]

Des Browne: The Lisbon treaty does not specify who will convene and chair the meetings of the ATHENA Special Committee. Currently, the chairmanship is rotated every six months among member states.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* qualified majority voting, *(b)* unanimity and *(c)* another voting procedure is used when voting in the ATHENA Special Committee. [183511]

Des Browne: Decisions of EU Special Committee ATHENA are taken unanimously by its members.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the UK has spent on European Security and Defence Policy training exercises under the ATHENA mechanism since January 2004. [183508]

Des Browne: The UK share of eligible costs under the ATHENA mechanism attributed to European Security and Defence Policy training exercises since January 2004 is £104,561.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the bank account used by the ATHENA Special Committee for EU military missions has ever been overdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [183506]

Des Browne: Bank accounts used for EU-led operations having military or defence implications are managed under the authority of the EU Special Committee ATHENA by: the administrator of the ATHENA mechanism; the commander of each operation (in relation to the operation which he/she commands); and an accounting officer. No ATHENA bank account may be overdrawn.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* country of location was of the bank used by the ATHENA Special Committee for each EU military mission since 2004. [183507]

Des Browne: The bank used by Special Committee ATHENA for each military mission since 2004 is ING-Bruxelles in Belgium.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on bank charges relating to payments from the UK's contribution to the ATHENA mechanism in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [183510]

Des Browne: The UK share of ATHENA bank charges that have been paid in each year since 2004 is as follows:

	£
2004	347
2005	380
2006	363
2007	362

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the ATHENA mechanism common funding of EU military missions has been paid to NATO for use of NATO assets for EU *(a)* military missions and *(b)* military training exercises by (i) the UK, (ii) the EU and (iii) NATO member states who are not members of the EU in each year since 2004. [183512]

Des Browne: None. It was agreed in 2003 by the NATO and European Councils that NATO would charge the EU only for incremental or out-of-pocket costs for using NATO assets. To date it has not been necessary for NATO to charge such costs.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether NATO member states who are not members of the EU providing troops and resources to an EU military mission which falls under the 2002 Berlin Plus Agreement are allowed to *(a)* participate in and *(b)* be present during voting in the ATHENA Special Committee; and if he will make a statement. [183505]

Des Browne: NATO nations who are not members of the EU but who contribute to the financing of the common costs of an EU-led operation are considered as 'contributing third states'. 'Contributing third states' are entitled to take part in the proceedings of Special Committee ATHENA but are not permitted to take part in or be present at its votes.

Individual Resettlement Training Costs Grant

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on the Individual Resettlement Training Costs Grant in each year since 2000-01. [179675]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what major combat units are operating in Iraq. [177939]

Des Browne *[holding answer [illegible] January 2008]*: The units serving in Iraq can be found on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqDetailsOfBritishAndCoalitionForces.htm

and are listed as follows:

4th Mechanised Brigade Headquarters and 204 Signal Squadron

The Royal Dragoon Guards

1st Battalion Scots Guards

The Royal Scots Borders, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)

1st Battalion The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment (1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment as of 1 September 2007)

21 Engineer Regiment

12 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

1 Close Support Medical Regiment

Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron (Sea King)

Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron (Lynx)

D Battery, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

K Battery, 5th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

62 Works Group Royal Engineers, 523 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works)

Elements of 3rd (UK) Division Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 1st (UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), The Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 6 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron, 7 Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 84 Medical Supply Squadron, 9 Supply Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 150 Transport Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 24 Postal, Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Postal, Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 148 Expeditionary Forces Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 1 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

115 Provost Company, 1st Provost Regiment, Royal Military Police

Elements of 102 Military Working Dog Support Unit, Royal Army Veterinary Corps

Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade

No 28 (AC) Squadron, Royal Air Force (Merlin)

619 Tactical Air Control Party, Royal Air Force

627 Tactical Air Control Party, Royal Air Force

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private contractors were employed by his Department in Iraq on 1 January 2008; how many were employed on 1 January in each of the previous three years; and what the cost was of such employment in each year. [182163]

Des Browne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Marines: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* outflow, *(b)* voluntary outflow in total and *(c)* voluntary outflow rate from the Royal Marines was in each year since 1997. [183517]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the outflow, voluntary outflow and voluntary outflow rate for the Royal Marines for each year since 1997.

	Total outflow	*Voluntary outflow*	*Voluntary outflow rate as a percentage of strength*
1997	530	280	4.6
1998	690	410	6.9
1999	580	310	5.3
2000	540	270	4.5
2001	580	360	6.0
2002	590	380	6.1
2003	540	320	5.0
2004	650	390	6.1
2005	620	430	6.7
2006	540	380	5.9
2007	520	370	5.6

Notes:

1. These figures are drawn from trained regular Royal Marine personnel.
2. Promotions to officer from the ranks, demotions to the ranks from officer and transfers to other services have been excluded.
3. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
4. Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of JPA, the flows since October 2006 are still provisional.

National Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role his Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [184215]

Des Browne: The Department is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

NATO

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries he plans to support as prospective members as part of the future enlargement of NATO. [184210]

Des Browne: The question of invitations to Albania, Croatia and Macedonia (each of which is participating in a Membership Action Plan) will be considered at the NATO summit meeting to be held in Bucharest in April. The UK supports the membership aspirations of those European countries that meet NATO's standards and share its values and would be pleased if all three were ready to receive an invitation.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the decommissioning of the Vanguard Class submarines; and if he will make a statement. [169442]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Nuclear decommissioning costs are the subject of current work within the Department. When this work is complete, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Alex Salmond:

I undertook to write to you in my answer of 7 January 2008 (Official Report, column 53W) to respond to your Question, regarding the cost of the decommissioning of Vanguard Class submarines.

As you may be aware from the answers to previous questions, it is not possible to provide costs broken down by class; the furthest they can be broken down at present is to the total decommissioning cost for in-service submarines only.

Nuclear decommissioning provisions are the estimated costs of future liabilities. These are principally related to future facility decommissioning and the treatment and storage of nuclear waste arising from operations at MOD sites, operations of Royal Navy submarines, and the Departmental share of planning and constructing a national repository for the eventual disposal of that waste.

We have recently undertaken a review of the nuclear provisions. Our estimated current liability for in-service submarines only (i.e. excluding facility decommissioning, and the decommissioning of out of service submarines and submarines not yet in service) is £455 million. This is an 'undiscounted' figure, meaning that it includes an estimate of potential inflation; the equivalent discounted figure is £240 million.

I hope that this is helpful.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1117W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker).

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts have been entered into by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team since 2004; and what the value was of each contract. [175648]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2004, numerous contracts have been entered into by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team and I will write to the hon. Member with details.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Norman Baker:

I undertook to write to you in my answer of 7 January 2008 (Official Report, column 57W) to provide details of contracts placed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team (RFAS IPT) since 2004. I apologise for the time it has taken to collate this information.

Since 2007, the IPT has placed a total of 403 contracts in support of in-service RFA vessels and details of each contract are included in the attached list. You will notice they have been separated into competitive and non-competitive contracts.

I am withholding details of individual contract values that were let following a competitive process, as to release this information could prejudice the commercial interests of the contractors and could provide their competitors with a commercial advantage for future procurements. In order to provide you with as much information as possible, however, the competitive contracts have been grouped into price categories.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184104]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trident: Finance

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the total annual cost of the Trident replacement system; and if he will make a statement. [182400]

Des Browne *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: As the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994), made clear, we have decided to maintain our nuclear deterrent capability by procuring a new class of submarines to replace the Vanguard-class and by participating in a programme to extend the life of the Trident IID5 missile. We expect that once the new fleet of submarines comes into service the annual in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, including the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, will be similar to today (around 5 to 6 per cent. of the defence budget).

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of each of the 101 non-emergency numbers projects; and if she will make a statement. [182370]

Mr. McNulty: Evaluation and assessment of the single non-emergency number 101 service in the initial five live areas has found that the service has successfully demonstrated the benefits it was intended to achieve. In addition to improving the public's access to community safety services, through better partnership working and information about what problems are happening where, the 101 service has also helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently and improve the delivery of those services to the public.

While the Government recognise the benefits that have been achieved, it has been decided that the Home Office will not continue to fund directly the operation of the 101 service in the live areas or the development of 101 services in other areas. This was a difficult decision taken in the context of significant pressure on resources and competing policing and security priorities.

However, the Home Office will continue to provide funding for the national 101 infrastructure in order to enable and support local areas to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 services, informed by and building on the benefits demonstrated to date. I welcome the work currently being taken forward to this effect by the Greater London Assembly together with London councils, individual boroughs and the Metropolitan Police in their plans to pilot the 101 service locally.

Asylum: Deportation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many attempts to deport asylum seekers failed because the receiving country refused to accept them in each of the last five years; [181490]

(2) how many attempts to deport asylum seekers failed because the receiving country refused to accept them after the flight had left the UK in each of the last five years. [181857]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Biometrics: National Identity Register

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals who require a biometric immigration document will have their details entered onto the National Identity Register. [181669]

Meg Hillier: Foreign nationals' details will not be recorded on the National Identity Register until biometric immigration documents are designated under the Identity Cards Act 2006.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which pieces of information to be included on identity cards for British nationals are included on biometric immigration documents for foreign nationals; and if she will make a statement. [181670]

Meg Hillier: The precise information to be recorded on an identity card issued to British citizens will be prescribed in regulations to be approved by Parliament under section 6 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. There will be some core identity information that will be common to both the identity card for British citizens and the biometric immigration document for foreign nationals, such as photograph of the holder, name and date of birth. However, the biometric immigration document will also include details of the holder's immigration status, as well as whether employment is allowed or restricted, and if the holder is entitled to public funds, which would not appear on the cards for British citizens.

Crimes of Violence

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent and *(b)* other crimes were recorded in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) city of York constituency in each of the last 10 years. [183420]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the table. Violence against the person data for the city of York are only available from 1999-2000 and other crimes data from 2000-01.

Violence against the person and other crimes recorded by the police

Area and year	*Violence against the person*	*Other crimes*	*Total crimes*
North Yorkshire			
1997[1]	2,425	47,827	50,252
1998-99	4,827	50,482	55,309
1999-2000	5,101	48,453	53,554
2000-01	4,895	46,637	51,532
2001-02[2]	5,624	53,501	59,125
2002-03[2]	8,108	59,131	67,239
2003-04	9,610	61,863	71,473
2004-05	12,045	49,570	61,615
2005-06	11,473	47,377	58,850
2006-07	10,087	44,439	54,526
City of York			
1997	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
1998-99	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
1999-2000	1,650	[3]—	[3]—
2000-01	1,504	17,787	19,291
2001-02[2]	1,656	21,234	22,890
2002-03[2]	2,575	23,055	25,630
2003-04	3,459	25,888	29,347
2004-05	4,000	19,080	23,080
2005-06	3,810	18,974	22,784
2006-07	3,285	17,650	20,935

[1] Using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into force on 1 April 1998.

[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[3] Not available.

Databases: Genetics

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests have been made to chief constables for the removal of *(a)* DNA and *(b)* police national computer records since 2006; and how many of these requests have been granted. [169352]

Meg Hillier: There are no central records of the number of requests made to chief officers for the removal of DNA, fingerprints and police national computer records and the number which have been granted since 2006. Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the decision on whether to agree to a request from an individual to have their DNA profile, fingerprints and associated records removed from police databases lies with the chief officer of the force which took the DNA sample and fingerprint records.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment her Department has made of the likely period of time it will take a police constable to check a person's identity against the National Identity Register when it becomes operational; [171054]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the technology requirements needed by police forces to check a person's identity against the National Identity Register when it becomes available; and if she will make a statement; [171055]

(3) how many police stations her Department expects to have technology and equipment to allow officers access to the National Identity Register when it is first introduced. [171056]

Meg Hillier: It is estimated that police checks against the NIR will take only a short time, similar to current checks against police databases, to fit in with the operational requirements of the police. The exact amount of time taken will vary, depending on the nature of the check carried out, but routine identity verification should take a matter of seconds.

The exact technical details of how identity checks will be made have yet to be negotiated, precise details will be determined by the chosen supplier and the police during the development of the Scheme

When the Scheme is first introduced the number of checks required by the police will be limited but will increase as the Scheme grows. Consequently, in the beginning there will be a limited number of police stations that have technology and equipment to allow officers to make identity checks against the National Identity Register. As rollout continues it will be a matter for the police to determine their requirement for equipment as the Scheme rolls out.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested but not subsequently convicted had their details *(a)* entered onto and *(b)* subsequently removed from the National DNA Database in each year since its creation. [177436]

Meg Hillier: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) records the DNA profiles for particular individuals. It does not hold data on arrest and criminal records. To provide figures for the number of people arrested but not convicted which were *(a)* entered onto and *(b)* removed from the National DNA Database could be done at disproportionate cost only.

Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to help reduce levels of domestic violence. [179634]

Mr. Coaker: A key objective of the cross-Government National Delivery Plan for domestic violence is to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence through actions to: increase the early identification of (and interventions with) victims of domestic violence; ensure that effective advice and support is provided to victims of domestic violence; improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence; and managing perpetrators of domestic violence to reduce risk.

Key aspects of the Government's work have included:

encouraging early reporting of domestic violence through supporting a matrix of national help lines for both victims and perpetrators;

rolling out routine inquiries to all maternity services in recognition of the links between pregnancy and domestic violence;

strengthening the criminal justice response through the development and expansion of specialist domestic violence courts to 64 in England and Wales with plans to increase this to 100 by the end of 2007-08;

ensuring that co-ordinators of appropriate responses to domestic violence are located in every police force, every probation area and every Crown Prosecution Service area;

establishing accredited perpetrator programmes for convicted perpetrators in all probation areas; and

improving the safety of identified high risk victims of domestic violence through the development of independent domestic violence adviser services and multi-agency risk assessment conferences, with over 100 areas currently supported.

The Government have provided funding to specialist domestic violence courts, multi-agency risk assessment conferences and independent domestic violence advisers within Wirral and across Merseyside.

This work is already having a significant impact nationally: according to the British Crime Survey there has been a 59 per cent. decrease in the prevalence of domestic violence between 1995 and 2006-07.

Domestic Violence: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding allocated to domestic violence prevention programmes in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in each of the last five years. [179604]

Mr. Coaker: The national domestic violence budgets contribute towards the delivery of the cross-Government National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence, which focuses on a range of key work objectives covering early intervention and prevention through to support for victims and the management of perpetrators of domestic violence.

The allocated budget for England and Wales since 2003-04 was as follows:

2003-04: £7.145 million to £6 million allocated to the Violence Against Women Initiative within the Crime Reduction Programme; £1 million allocated to a national awareness raising campaign; £145,000 allocated to domestic violence victims with no recourse to public funds.

2004-05: £1.65 million to £1.1 million allocated to the Government Offices for the Regions for local delivery against the Government's objectives; £50,000 allocated to implement the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and £500,000 allocated to a national awareness raising campaign.

2005-06: £5.5 million to £3 million allocated to the Government Offices for the Regions for local delivery against the Government's objectives; £1 million allocated to support the development of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme; £1 million allocated to fund a variety of projects including a matrix of national domestic violence helplines; and £500,000 allocated to a national awareness raising campaign.

2006-07: £6 million to £3 million allocated to the Government Offices for the Regions for local delivery against the Government's objectives; £1 million allocated to support the SDVC Programme; £1 million allocated to develop Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) services for SDVC Programme areas; and £1 million allocated to fund a variety of projects including a matrix of national domestic violence helplines.

2007-08: £8.85 million to £3 million allocated to develop IDVA services; £2 million allocated to the Government Offices for the Regions for local delivery against the Government's objectives; £2 million allocated to fund a variety of projects including a matrix of national domestic violence helplines; and £1.85 million allocated to develop Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

In addition to this, the Supporting People programme provides housing-related support for victims and their children. The following allocations were made in the last four years:

	£ million
2003-04	57
2004-05	56.9
2005-06	59.3
2006-07	61.6

The following funding has been received by Teesside, Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in each of the last five years:

2003-04: Middlesbrough was granted an additional year's funding from the Violence Against Women Initiative of £57,802 to continue running the My Sister's Place support services for victims of domestic violence. During the same year Cleveland police were allocated £60,000.

2004-05: A total of £60,000 was allocated to Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland to develop and pilot a perpetrator programme.

2005-06: The Tees Valley area was allocated £75,000 towards the rollout of the perpetrator programme across the four areas.

2006-07: The four areas received £89,000 to add value to the existing work and delivery of Community Safety Partnership domestic violence strategies, including training for Domestic Violence Co-ordinators, supporting the development of the SDVC Programme, and support and training for IDVAs. In addition to this, My Sister's Place received £20,000 to provide IDVAs to support Cleveland's SDVC.

2007-08: The four areas received £48,000 to address priorities aligned to the Government's domestic violence agenda, including support for the development and implementation of MARACs, support and training for IDVAs, support in relation to the ongoing development and implementation of SDVCs, support for sub-regional domestic violence training, and support for non-mandatory perpetrator programmes.

£20,000 continuation funding for IDVAs was provided to My Sister's Place, and a further £15,000 for MARAC administration within the Cleveland SDVC area.

Emergency Calls

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to 999 calls was for the fire services in each year since 1997, broken down by each local authority; and if she will make a statement. [178602]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

A table has been deposited in the Library of the House which shows the average response times taken by each fire and rescue services between 1997 and 2006, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance, and the time from mobilisation to attendance (i.e. the actual driving time).

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of calls to the 999 emergency services number were for the *(a)* police and *(b)* fire service in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [182630]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not keep central records of the proportion of calls to the 999 emergency services number that were for the police, fire service or any other emergency service. Individual police and fire authorities will hold information relating to the number of 999 emergency calls they have received.

European Extradition Warrant

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 83W, on the European Extradition Warrant, if she will take steps to establish and maintain a record of those British nationals extradited to EU member states under a European Extradition Warrant who are subsequently found guilty; and if she will make a statement. [174165]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The purpose of extradition is to ensure that those accused of a crime do not avoid justice by leaving the country in which the alleged offence took place. The fugitives unit of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) processes extraditions from the UK to member states of the European Union under the European Arrest Warrant system. The involvement of SOCA finishes when the extradition case is concluded, either by the person being extradited to the requesting country or by the extradition request being dismissed. SOCA has no statutory role in the monitoring of cases post extradition.

However, information about convictions received abroad by UK citizens—whether extradition was involved or not—may be of interest to the UK police, and this information is obtained from countries of the Council of Europe (which includes all EU member states) by the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Record information (UKCA-ECR) which is a part of the Criminal Records Office of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACRO).

Extradition

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the extradition of UK citizens were received in each of the last five years; and how many of those extradition applications were granted. [182772]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office is the Government Department responsible for extradition. It is long-standing policy and practice to neither confirm nor deny the existence of an extradition request ahead of a person's arrest. Table 1, as follows, sets out how many UK citizens have been arrested pursuant to extradition requests made to England and Wales since 1 January 2003; and how many UK citizens have been extradited.

Since 1 January 2004, the UK has been operating the Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant (EAW) with other member states of the EU. The Home Office has no involvement in the operation of the EAW. The Serious Organised Crime agency is the designated UK authority for the receipt and transmission of EAWs in the UK. Table 2, as follows, gives the number of UK nationals (a) arrested and (b) surrendered under the EAW procedure.

Table 1: Extradition Statistics

	Arrests pursuant to the extradition requests received	*Extradited*[1]
2003	21	12
2004	31	18
2005	5	1
2006	14	6
2007	6	0
Total	77	37

Table 2: European Arrest Warrant Statistics

	EAWs received	*Extradited*[1]
2004	12	5
2005	42	11
2006	49	26
2007[2]	48	22
Total	151	64

[1] A person is not always extradited in the same year an extradition request/EAW is made.

[2] These figures are from January to October 2007.

Human Trafficking

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will announce a timetable for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings; and if she will make a statement. [177081]

Jacqui Smith: The Government are determined to prioritise the effort to tackle the misery of human trafficking. That is why we intend to ratify the convention before the end of this year, subject to achieving necessary changes to domestic legislation in all parts of the UK.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what new research has been commissioned or undertaken by her Department into trafficking for forced labour since the publication of the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking; and what further research is planned for 2008. [177082]

Jacqui Smith: Knowledge about the nature and scale of trafficking for forced labour in the UK can be developed either by specific research or through intelligence collation.

Intelligence on trafficking for forced labour is currently being gathered from police forces across the UK under Operation Pentameter 2 and will be used to update our assessment of the extent of the problem. In the interim no further research on forced labour has been commissioned although the research on whether there are any specific risks of abuse concerning those entering to carry out domestic work or in related categories is still ongoing.

Work is also being undertaken on trafficking for forced labour as part of the implementation process of the Council of Europe Convention. In 2008 the Home Office will be running a pilot project, supported by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre, aimed at tackling trafficking for forced labour.

Identity and Passport Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the Identity and Passport Service and its predecessor agencies *(a)* investigated, *(b)* dismissed and (c) disciplined for corruption or other irregularities relating to the issuing or processing of British passports in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [181676]

Meg Hillier: The figures for the number of people within the Identity and Passport Service who have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* dismissed and *(c)* disciplined for corruption or other irregularities relating to the issuing or processing of British passports are given in the following table.

These figures do not include any ongoing investigations which may be underway within IPS.

	Investigated	*Disciplined*[1]	*Dismissed*
2002-03	11	0	2
2003-04	39	4	0
2004-05	28	7	4
2005-06	17	0	2
2006-07	9	1	2

[1] Indicates an action other than dismissal

Identity and Passport Service: Vetting

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* employed by and *(b)* working as contractors and couriers for the Identity and Passport Service have been subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks at each level of disclosure. [181629]

Meg Hillier: The only Identity and Passport Service (IPS) staff required to have Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance are staff within the Interview Office Network. Currently there are 493 staff in post and they all have CRB clearance. This is part of the pre-employment checks.

For interims, consultants, and contractors on work packages, none are required to have CRB checks as they are not working with children or the vulnerable.

IPS partners, special mail services (SMS) couriers, undergo a number of employment checks, but are not CRB checked.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer Questions 164855, 164765, 164967 and 164968 on the cost of the identity card and biometric passport scheme, tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 12 November 2007. [174763]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to my replies of 17 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 960-61W and on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 282W.

Identity Cards: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* the identity cards project and *(b)* external consultants working on the identity cards project to date. [164788]

Meg Hillier: Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Identity Cards Programme in total.

Of this expenditure, £31.6 million was spent on consulting and contracting services and £180,000 was spent on polling and opinion research.

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects which in the 2006-07 financial year amounted to £30.9 million.

The cost of external consultancy and contracted staff allocated to these projects for that year was £21.4 million.

The latest six monthly Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, published on 8 November 2007, sets out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those specific to identity cards and those that are common to both. The cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an ID card.

The latest Cost Report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 28 November 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Nigel Morrison. [181079]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2008.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to Question 171109 on the regulation of wheel clamping tabled on 29 November 2007 by the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire. [183783]

Mr. Coaker: I replied to the hon. Member on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 210W.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who do not speak English as a first language *(a)* applied for a passport and *(b)* were granted an interview at a passport interview centre in each month since interviews commenced. [181664]

Meg Hillier: In the passport application process, the Identity and Passport Service does not distinguish between applicants whose first language is either English or one of another country.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years have been interviewed at passport interview centres since interviews for passport applications were introduced. [181666]

Meg Hillier: Since 9 July 2007, 2,475 people aged 16 and 17 years applying for a first adult passport have had a completed interview.

Personal Records

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the merits of issuing one identity number to each citizen shared across the public sector. [176507]

Meg Hillier: Section 2(5) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 requires that a unique number, the National Identity Registration Number, is given to each individual who is registered on the National Identity Register and issued with an ID card.

Subject to parliamentary approval and regulations it would then be possible for the National Identity Registration Number to become used as a general identifier, in accordance with the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Police Stations

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police stations *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in London in each of the last five years, broken down by borough; [178641]

(2) what police station closures are currently planned in each London borough. [183019]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Finance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which events in London the Government have *(a)* part and *(b)* fully funded the policing of in each of the last 10 years. [182369]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have made a major contribution to the cost of policing events in London over the past 10 years in the form of general grant, specific grants and the special payment to the Metropolitan Police Service for its capital city functions. In addition to this the Government have provided special grant on four occasions in the last 10 years as detailed in the following table.

Special grant paid to the Metropolitan Police in the last 10 years

	Event	*Special grant (£ million)*
2000-01	May Day	1,000
2001-02	Fuel Dumps Refurbishments	1,000
2005-06	London Bombings	30,000
2006-07	Operation Overt	2,959

Police: Mergers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been reimbursed to date to each police force for costs incurred over the police force merger consultations; and if she will make a statement; [182627]

(2) how much has been pledged to be reimbursed to each police force from the costs of police force merger consultations; and if she will make a statement; [182628]

(3) what the full cost of the police force merger consultations was *(a)* to her Department and *(b)* to each police force; and if she will make a statement. [182629]

Mr. McNulty: Between September 2005 and July 2006, the Home Office spent approximately £400,000 on staff costs (representing a team of permanent, temporary and seconded staff averaging 10 people during this period), approximately £20,000 on legal costs and approximately £800,000 on consultancy for assessing and refining the police structures business cases. Other Home Office officials and special advisers made contributions to work on police restructuring as part of routine business and those costs could not be identified separately. Information on the full costs incurred by police forces on this work is not available. However, all police authorities were invited to submit claims for the additional costs incurred in the early preparations for police force mergers. On 30 October 2006, I announced in a written statement to Parliament the amounts to be offered towards those costs amounting to £3,997,200 in total. The amounts offered to each police authority are set out in the following table. Payment of these contributions was dependent on confirmation being received from each police authority that their claims had been made in accordance with the terms of the invitation. These payments have been made to all police authorities to whom the offers were made[1].

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[1] Except for Humberside Police Authority and North Yorkshire Police Authority whose confirmations have not been received.

Offers of payment towards additional costs incurred on the preparations for police force mergers

Police authority	*Payment offered (£)*
Bedfordshire	23,430
Cambridgeshire	100,000
Cheshire	100,000
Cleveland	100,000
Cumbria	271,000
Derbyshire	35,782
Dorset (for the five South West forces)	140,836
Durham	67,155
Dyfed-Powys	100,000
Essex	100,000
GMP	75,810
Gwent	96,467
Hampshire	11,495
Hertfordshire	100,000
Humberside	100,000
Kent	100,000
Lancashire	725,000
Leicestershire	37,232
Lincolnshire	287,600
Merseyside	100,000
Norfolk	100,000
North Wales	100,000
North Yorkshire	100,000
Northamptonshire	85,800
Northumbria	38,021
Nottinghamshire	46,200
South Wales	100,000
South Yorkshire	30,652
Staffordshire	56,317
Suffolk	45,483
Surrey	100,000
Sussex	100,000
Thames Valley	33,860
Warwickshire	100,000
West Mercia	89,061
West Midlands	100,000
West Yorkshire	100,000
Total	3,997,200

Police: South Tyneside

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on policing in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [174755]

Mr. McNulty: Northumbria Police Authority has responsibility for policing South Tyneside. Figures for South Tyneside alone are not available.

Information on Northumbria and the north-east are set out in the following table.

Total gross revenue expenditure for Northumbria, the north-east and England from 1997-98 to 2007-08

			£ million
	Northumbria	*North East*[1]	*England*
1997-98	200.7	355.8	6,817.5
1998-99	213.4	376.3	7,074.3
1999-2000	220.3	392.5	7,410.2
2000-01	226.1	404.1	7,886.5
2001-02	242.1	441.2	8,514.1
2002-03	249.0	456.0	8,917.7
2003-04	256.3	486.4	9,649.3
2004-05	279.1	522.4	10,910.9
2005-06	307.4	564.2	11,749.2
2006-07	326.6	608.0	12,578.5
2007-08[2]	317.7	585.9	11,957.6

[1] North-east region consists of Northumbria, Cleveland and Durham.

[2] CIPFA estimated force revenue expenditure intentions in 2007-08.

Source:

CIFPA police statistics actuals for 1997-98 to 2006-07 and estimates for 2007-08.

Police: Telephone Services

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the revenue received from customers phoning on telephone numbers beginning 08 by police forces in the last five financial years. [183045]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Proceeds of Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the total operational cost of the suspicious activity reports regime has been since it was created; and how much was spent on capital establishment costs; [182158]

(2) what the total operational cost of the suspicious activity reports regime has been to the Government in the past 12 months. [182213]

Jacqui Smith: Suspicious activity reports (SARs) are submitted to the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) in the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). £12,792.502 has been spent on the operation of the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) since April 2006, when the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) assumed responsibility for the UKFIU. In 2007 £7,305,511 was spent on the operation of the UKFIU. This includes the running costs of the SARs transformation project. This is not contained within the FIU, but is an IT-enabled business change project entirely focused on improving the SARs regime. In addition, the overhead charge associated with running estates and IT for the UKFIU is currently around £1,200,000 per year.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been collected through the suspicious activity reports regime since its creation. [182214]

Jacqui Smith: SARs make a contribution to a range of outcomes including asset recovery but also harm reduction, the building of intelligence on criminals and terrorists, and criminal convictions. In relation to terrorism, the information contained in SARs has been used to assist in the prevention of further terrorist activity, through being linked to ongoing inquiries, and regularly adds valuable new information.

Because the information contained in SARs is one of many inputs to these results it is not possible to quantify the value of these in terms of amounts of criminal assets recovered. Nor would this cover the full range of benefits.

Racial Violence

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 662-64W, on racial violence, how many and what percentage of those incidents resulted in a conviction. [172180]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The statistics provided in the previous answer related to all racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police. The police data (i.e. offences recorded) are based on the number of crimes recorded in each financial year. Convictions data are based on the number of offender convictions and are published on a calendar year basis. Convictions figures are counts of offenders classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Information on the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for racially aggravated violence offences has been provided in the following table.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for offences of racially aggravated violence, by police force area, England and Wales 2002-06[1, 2]

Police force area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	45	69	80	98	107
Bedfordshire[3]	12	24	20	32	42
Cambridgeshire	32	24	38	50	56
Cheshire	29	42	52	66	92
City of London	3	10	7	12	13
Cleveland	9	24	41	46	67
Cumbria	13	19	28	40	46
Derbyshire	40	48	58	75	79
Devon and Cornwall	27	65	60	66	92
Dorset	12	14	23	28	46
Durham	23	30	43	59	65
Essex	19	23	51	92	108
Gloucestershire	22	21	34	25	44
Greater Manchester	180	261	298	367	444
Hampshire	88	96	139	162	167
Hertfordshire	32	37	45	59	117
Humberside	30	58	53	64	56
Kent	10	16	7	15	12
Lancashire	106	143	168	198	295
Leicestershire	77	106	100	147	149
Lincolnshire	12	19	26	35	39
Merseyside	48	72	102	110	162
Metropolitan Police	440	503	642	764	880
Norfolk	19	32	43	47	54
North Yorkshire	16	16	30	36	52
Northamptonshire	3	5	4	10	4
Northumbria	86	106	112	129	135
Nottinghamshire	71	82	95	107	108
South Yorkshire	50	54	56	64	114
Staffordshire	57	62	68	56	77
Suffolk	20	24	40	39	58
Surrey	5	14	25	40	61
Sussex	35	57	58	73	121
Thames Valley	49	69	69	86	137
Warwickshire	27	16	20	38	91
West Mercia	52	75	81	94	126
West Midlands	229	257	319	309	371
West Yorkshire	97	109	149	174	176
Wiltshire	18	28	22	38	45
Dyfed-Powys	26	29	19	17	32
Gwent	31	25	29	30	53
North Wales	10	34	37	50	75
South Wales	62	79	121	113	98
Total	2,272	2,897	3,512	4,160	5,166

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Robbery: Children

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many robberies were committed by children in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [183384]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. From the information collected on recorded crime it is not possible to identify the age of the offender.

Theft: Bicycles and Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many thefts of *(a)* bicycles and *(b)* motor cars were reported in each police force area in England in each year since 2001; [183656]

(2) how many thefts from a motor car were reported in each police force area in England in each year since 2001; [183657]

(3) how many thefts of *(a)* bicycles and *(b)* motor cars there were from railway stations in each police force area in England in each year since 2001. [183658]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables. Information on thefts of bicycles and motor cars from railway stations is not collected centrally.

Table 1: Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	3,555	3,090	3,043	3,713	4,131	4,311
Bedfordshire	870	719	898	881	1,073	965
Cambridgeshire	4,171	3,975	4,374	4,528	4,44.	4,121
Cheshire	1,666	1,551	1,746	1,565	1,731	1,795
Cleveland	1,460	1,028	1,116	1,237	1,255	1,132
Cumbria	691	606	802	850	862	780
Derbyshire	1,505	1,301	1,358	1,131	1,156	1,065
Devon and Cornwall	1,563	1,443	1,712	1,825	1,792	1,876
Dorset	1,522	1,624	1,843	1,602	1,555	1,806
Durham	867	726	827	815	802	815
Essex	2,299	2,100	2,462	2,775	2,875	2,676
Gloucestershire	1,691	1,588	1,653	1,322	1,577	1,516
Greater Manchester	5,007	4,598	4,220	4,198	4,731	4,597
Hampshire	4,455	4,253	4,545	4,869	5,843	5,839
Hertfordshire	1,339	1,397	1,484	1,656	1,767	1,826
Humberside	4,330	3,736	3,777	3,195	3,281	2,978
Kent	1,821	1,609	1,829	2,020	1,884	1,888
Lancashire	2,702	2,505	2,525	2,594	2,694	2,784
Leicestershire	2,132	1,754	1,869	1,879	1,893	1,932
Lincolnshire	1,750	1,810	1,623	1,766	1,736	1,604
London, City of	334	427	355	319	336	314
Merseyside	1,678	1,445	1,569	1,673	1,726	1,854
Metropolitan Police	14,340	15,812	19,261	19,317	21,238	18,648
Norfolk	1,926	1,888	2,108	1,972	2,019	1,877
Northamptonshire	1,146	1,053	1,157	1,318	1,152	1,202
Northumbria	2,468	2,387	2,644	2,405	2,362	2,338
North Yorkshire	2,442	2,331	2,563	1,991	2,041	2,020
Nottinghamshire	3,555	2,608	2,744	2,601	2,876	3,026
South Yorkshire	1,891	1,787	1,346	1,421	1,725	1,690
Staffordshire	1,667	1,235	1,285	1,232	1,270	1,319
Suffolk	1,728	1,439	1,457	1,653	1,828	1,759
Surrey	1,301	1,085	1,297	1,331	1,463	1,679
Sussex	2,959	2,329	2,683	2,811	3,165	3,097
Thames Valley	5,346	5,264	5,547	5,879	5,994	5,688
Warwickshire	1,060	1,001	1,076	878	1,005	1,028
West Mercia	1,903	1,484	1,559	1,596	1,592	1,577
West Midlands	4,004	3,301	3,229	2,793	3,132	3,233
West Yorkshire	2,673	2,250	2,374	2,175	2,521	2,495
Wiltshire	1,224	1,050	1,001	1,074	1,253	1,335
England	99,041	91,589	98,961	98,860	105,778	102,485

[1] The National Crime Recording standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2: Offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	12,181	11,983	8,705	7,070	6,280	6,108
Bedfordshire	3,873	3,111	2,834	1,965	2,185	1,882

Table 2 Offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

	2001-02	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cambridgeshire	2,941	3,638	3,307	2,720	2,265	2,347
Cheshire	4,625	4,503	3,994	3,599	3,503	2,935
Cleveland	4,797	4,468	4,463	3,616	2,901	2,256
Cumbria	1,115	1,244	1,060	1,101	1,087	948
Derbyshire	3,832	4,062	3,571	2,785	2,693	2,525
Devon and Cornwall	3,392	3,907	3,396	3,256	3,058	3,025
Dorset	2,499	2,276	2,199	1,767	1,499	1,395
Durham	2,712	2,423	2,369	2,088	2,134	1,889
Essex	7,505	7,664	7,283	6,419	6,253	5,629
Gloucestershire	1,828	1,977	2,264	1,949	1,706	1,451
Greater Manchester	31,969	26,252	21,870	18,794	17,001	14,877
Hampshire	6,506	6,278	5,822	4,871	4,394	4,726
Hertfordshire	3,810	4,287	4,323	3,445	3,361	2,821
Humberside	6,501	7,607	7,619	6,096	4,857	4,067
Kent	7,237	7,138	6,749	6,181	6,438	5,650
Lancashire	6,154	5,585	5,231	4,514	3,849	3,738
Leicestershire	4,604	4,576	3,986	3,506	2,566	2,772
Lincolnshire	1,885	2,101	1,932	1,833	1,690	1,608
London, City of	380	334	226	97	74	75
Merseyside	15,081	13,081	11,403	9,354	7,161	6,198
Metropolitan Police	62,112	58,405	55,158	48,026	43,463	37,599
Norfolk	1,888	2,288	2,173	1,851	1,577	1,468
Northamptonshire	3,758	3,817	3,642	3,415	2,896	2,731
Northumbria	7,837	6,981	6,445	5,189	4,748	3,883
North Yorkshire	2,349	2,623	2,672	2,097	2,154	1,585
Nottinghamshire	7,714	8,782	8,014	6,284	4,798	4,609
South Yorkshire	8,294	10,241	9,621	8,005	7,648	7,481
Staffordshire	5,637	4,463	4,209	3,470	3,411	3,235
Suffolk	1,693	1,606	1,459	1,645	1,264	1,408
Surrey	2,881	3,110	2,947	2,413	2,229	2,205
Sussex	5,442	5,992	5,313	4,379	3,626	3,353
Thames Valley	10,255	9,111	8,753	7,651	6,829	6,384
Warwickshire	2,118	2,282	2,125	1,919	1,751	1,696
West Mercia	3,336	3,371	3,432	3,179	2,629	2,340
West Midlands	25,385	23,598	23,217	17,091	14,482	12,249
West Yorkshire	23,765	22,867	19,473	13,961	10,455	9,469
Wiltshire	1,267	1,308	1,265	1,328	1,031	1,024
England	311,158	299,340	274,524	228,929	201,946	181,641

[1] The National crime Recording standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 3 Offences of theft from a vehicle recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

	2001-02	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	28,610	24,266	20,303	16,936	15,629	15,942
Bedfordshire	8,852	8,323	7,337	6,448	6,735	6,949
Cambridgeshire	9,804	9,707	7,365	6,449	6,080	6,429
Cheshire	8,820	9,400	8,850	8,011	8,181	7,370
Cleveland	9,454	9,826	8,030	6,510	6,035	5,598
Cumbria	3,368	3,509	3,054	2,840	2,091	1,897
Derbyshire	12,471	12,730	10,787	7,418	7,174	7,490
Devon and Cornwall	14,157	15,470	13,205	11,734	10,786	10,380
Dorset	7,310	7,141	6,404	4,813	5,144	3,863
Durham	5,086	5,023	4,704	3,415	3,952	4,240
Essex	13,356	13,906	13,757	12,334	13,781	12,736
Gloucestershire	6,312	5,763	6,143	4,810	3,992	3,812
Greater Manchester	42,806	41,022	37,414	31,178	35,802	39,189
Hampshire	15,353	15,985	14,947	11,668	13,446	15,140
Hertfordshire	10,453	12,315	11,916	9,664	9,145	8,376
Humberside	14,843	14,881	13,810	11,187	10,748	9,694
Kent	13,361	13,676	12,492	11,713	12,387	11,772
Lancashire	14,861	13,289	11,468	10,822	10,521	10,458
Leicestershire	11,749	11,410	10,030	7,868	7,413	7,748
Lincolnshire	4,897	5,756	4,571	4,074	4,115	3,810

Table 3: Offences of theft from a vehicle recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

	2001-02[1]	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
London, City of	511	360	357	156	178	156
Merseyside	14,901	14,973	14,961	13,891	14,997	12,806
Metropolitan Police	112,146	114,987	103,899	88,164	94,309	92,137
Norfolk	7,909	8,451	6,223	4,440	3,812	4,030
Northamptonshire	7,577	8,051	9,069	7,161	6,267	6,156
Northumbria	12,573	13,283	11,644	10,836	10,846	9,345
North Yorkshire	5,822	6,947	6,844	4,379	4,509	4,615
Nottinghamshire	20,818	22,227	20,303	16,476	17,741	15,965
South Yorkshire	20,427	21,948	19,573	16,199	17,962	17,704
Staffordshire	12,314	10,984	9,576	7,800	7,646	7,662
Suffolk	5,223	4,676	4,323	3,818	4,017	3,990
Surrey	6,513	6,879	6,973	6,830	6,793	7,165
Sussex	15,798	15,116	13,463	10,787	9,856	9,220
Thames Valley	31,525	28,318	26,710	23,385	22,426	22,119
Warwickshire	5,890	6,195	5,111	4,725	4,520	5,200
West Mercia	9,725	9,705	8,702	7,764	7,123	6,525
West Midlands	38,239	37,240	33,894	25,380	24,910	27,082
West Yorkshire	41,671	41,340	36,287	24,525	22,557	24,566
Wiltshire	3,997	4,243	4,185	3,617	3,318	3,676
Total England	629,510	627,633	568,704	470,227	477,024	473,472

[1] The National Crime Recording standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Vetting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the variations in rates charged by intermediary bodies to individuals and small organisations for processing of Criminal Records Bureau checks; what assessment she has made of the effect of such charges on individuals and small organisations; and what assessment of the effect was made before the entry into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; [175717]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on the Criminal Records Bureau application system of the entry into force of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; and what assessment she has made of the effects of these changes on *(a)* processing time and *(b)* financial efficiency of (i) the Criminal Records Bureau and (ii) applicants or employers using intermediary bodies. [175718]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has been an integral part of the team tasked with designing the new processes associated with the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVG Act) to ensure that impacts on the disclosure service are minimised as far as possible.

There should be no adverse impact on the processing time of standard or enhanced disclosures as a result of the new processes, and the CRB is taking the opportunity afforded by the changes prompted by the SVG Act to explore how to leverage further efficiency improvements in its existing processes. The costs to CRB of operating the new elements of the processes associated with the SVG Act will be covered by the additional application fees levied under Act.

There is no legal requirement to assess the level of charge between intermediary bodies, individuals and small organisations for the processing of checks, which is a commercial matter between the intermediary body and its customers. However, a regulatory impact assessment for the Act was published in 2006 and includes details of the impact on small firms, references to how we propose to balance the rights of individual employees with those of vulnerable groups, and a range of references to the impact on other bodies such as regulators, the voluntary sector, local government bodies and the police.

Vetting: EC Action

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the discussions between the Criminal Records Bureau and the Association of Chief Police Officers on seeking access to *(a)* European Union Member States' and *(b)* other foreign countries' criminal conviction data to reach conclusions; and if she will make a statement. [176112]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau contacted all member states in 2007 to establish whether there was an opportunity to enter into agreements to exchange data for employment vetting purposes where national laws allowed. To date there have been positive responses from some member states—the Republic of Ireland, France, Estonia and Poland. Australia has also indicated a willingness to share information.

A Home Office-chaired Steering Group has been established to oversee this project and representatives include the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

We remain committed to improving access to overseas criminal convictions data. Even where another jurisdiction is willing to exchange such information, detailed work will still be needed with each overseas jurisdiction on a range of issues, including forming an understanding of offence descriptions which may differ from those used in UK jurisdictions and establishing exchange arrangements where criminal records data are not held centrally in the overseas jurisdiction, or are not held electronically.

Victim Support Schemes: Metropolitan Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure improvement in levels of victim satisfaction with the service provided by the Metropolitan Police. [176795]

Mr. McNulty: A key aim of the Government's Citizen Focused Policing agenda is to support all forces, including the Metropolitan police, in improving the service they provide to victims. These include the development of minimum service standards, such as the Quality of Service Commitment, and the creation of new statutory rights for victims under a code of practice for victims of crime.

The effective use of performance information is also crucial, with all forces conducting local surveys to assess victim satisfaction. This performance information submitted by forces to the Home Office on a quarterly basis, is used to help drive performance improvements.

Furthermore, the rollout of Neighbourhood Policing focuses on improving public confidence and satisfaction in the police service by ensuring the needs of individuals and communities are considered and routinely reflected in day to day policing activity.

Written Questions

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer written question numbers 162090 and 162091, tabled on 7 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Ceredigion, on economic migrants. [171226]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 487-88W.

TREASURY

Benzodiazepines: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many drug misuse deaths related to benzodiazepines have occurred in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* Wales in each year since 1999. [183071]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many drug misuse deaths related to benzodiazepines have occurred in (a) Scotland, (b) Northern Ireland and (c) Wales in each year since 1999. (183071)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2006. The table below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning, and where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record, alone or with other substances. All such deaths are defined by ONS as drug misuse deaths. Figures are provided for usual residents of Wales for the years 1999 to 2006.

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for figures for their respective countries.

Deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record, Wales,[2] 1999 to 2006[3]

	Total mentions	Mentions without other drugs
1999	17	2
2000	14	4
2001	23	4
2002	13	3
2003	25	4
2004	14	3
2005	12	1
2006	18	6

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 303, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E980.0-E980.5 and E962.0 for the years 1999 and 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 from 2001 onwards. These deaths were selected where benzodiazepines were mentioned on the death record.

[2] Deaths of usual residents of Wales.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through regional development agencies' single pot. [179229]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: The RDAs are funded by six Departments including, the Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, UK Trade and Investment, Communities and Local Government, Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Together these provide £2.3 billion in 2007-08, £2.2 billion in 2008-09, £2.2 billion in 2009-10 and £2.1 billion in 2010-11 to the RDAs' single budget. The RDAs detailed proposals for business support covering the next three years will be set out in their corporate plans which will be published in the spring.

Climate Change

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many departmental *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* consultants, contractors or secondees working full-time or part-time for his Department attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. [179196]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 16 January 2008]*: None. However, two Treasury officials travelled to Indonesia for a meeting of Finance Ministries on climate change, convened by the Indonesian Minister of Finance.

Crown Estate Commissioners: Advertising

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Crown Estate spent on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183398]

Angela Eagle: The only paid advertising that the Crown Estate undertakes is in relation to recruitment. The information available is in the table:

	£000
2006-07	235
2005-06	233
2004-05	194
2003-04	61
2002-03	73
2001-02	163
2000-01	87
1999-2000	77
1998-99	79

Crown Estate Commissioners: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Crown Estate received from rents paid by shellfish farmers in *(a)* Orkney, *(b)* Shetland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK in each of the last five years. [183389]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is given in the table:

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Orkney	1.1	0.7	3	1	2.5
Shetland	15	20	31	35	50
Scotland	86	79	96	146	131
UK	100	105	114	171	156

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many aquaculture projects paid rent to the Crown Estate in Orkney and Shetland in each of the last five years; and what income was generated from such rents in each year. [183395]

Angela Eagle: The information available is given in the table:

	Orkney		*Shetland*	
	£000	*Number of projects*	*£000*	*Number of projects*
2003-04	51	25	598	156
2004-05	111	25	885	172
2005-06	132	28	518	187
2006-07	91	28	518	189

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Crown Estate made of the value of the seabed surrounding the Orkney and Shetland Isles in each of the last three years. [183396]

Angela Eagle: An estimate of the value of the seabed surrounding Orkney and Shetland is given in the table:

	£ million
2004-05	3.7
2005-06	3.7
2006-07	3.7

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179918]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor's Department and its agencies have procured a number of Government and departmental branded products over the last five years including pens, mugs, carrier bags, mouse mats in relation to agency re-branding, awareness campaigns and conferences. However, it is not possible to provide comprehensive details as these could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of redundancies was to his Department in each month since 30 June 2006. [180486]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 313W. The cost of redundancies in 2006-07 was £1,140,000. Monthly data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wines

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164286]

Angela Eagle: I am pleased that the changes secured by the UK in negotiating the new CAP wine regime will enable the UK wine production sector to continue the rapid expansion seen in recent years in response to strong consumer demand.

All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC Treaty. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality.

English wines, however, can be supplied upon request.

Employment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* employed (i) full-time and (ii) part-time and *(b)* unemployed in (A) City of York constituency, (B) City of York Council area, (C) Yorkshire and the Humber region and (D) the United Kingdom (1) at the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the previous 10 years. [183405]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people were (a) employed (i) full-time (ii) part time and (b) unemployed in (A) City of York constituency, (B) City of York council area, (C) Yorkshire and The Humber and (D) the United Kingdom (1) at the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the previous 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (183405)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were in full-time and part-time employment, for the 12 months ending in February from 1997 to 2004 from the annual LFS and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007, and for the latest period, the 12 months ending in June 2007, from APS. The table also shows corresponding data for residents of the City of York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and The Humber and Great Britain.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a, statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas are compiled from the annual LFS and APS following ILO definitions.

Table 2 attached, shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were unemployed, for the 12 months ending in February from 1997 to 2004 from the annual LFS and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007, and for the latest period, the 12 months ending in June 2007, from APS. The table also shows corresponding data for residents of the City of York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and The Humber and Great Britain. Corresponding headline unemployment rates, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59), are also provided. The rates allow changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, for the City of York constituency and the City of York Unitary Authority, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 3, attached, shows the annual average number of people, resident in the City of York constituency, the City of York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and The Humber and the United Kingdom, claiming JSA from 1997 to 2007. The number of claimants is also shown as a percentage of the resident working age population.

Table 1 Full-time and part-time employment: city of York constituency, city of York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain

In employment (Thousand)

	City of York constituency			*City of York unitary authority*			*Yorkshire and the Humber*			*Great Britain*		
12 months ending	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
February 1997	32	12	44	59	23	82	1,590	560	2,151	18,974	6,379	25,355
February 1998	31	14	45	57	20	77	1,594	576	2,170	19,224	6,448	25,678
February 1999	33	15	48	59	24	83	1,616	595	2,212	19,454	6,520	25,981
February 2000	34	12	45	61	22	83	1,620	591	2,211	19,600	6,610	26,218
February 2001	36	15	51	64	29	93	1,634	624	2,259	19,743	6,739	26,492
February 2002	36	15	51	66	27	93	1,658	606	2,265	19,957	6,767	26,734
February 2003	37	16	54	65	28	93	1,664	616	2,280	19,931	6,902	26,848
February 2004	37	16	53	65	27	92	1,671	641	2,312	19,971	7,078	27,063
March 2005	39	16	55	65	27	92	1,696	623	2,320	20,274	7,019	27,313
March 2006	37	15	52	67	26	93	1,691	630	2,322	20,310	7,046	27,371
March 2007	36	14	50	65	24	90	1,684	560	2,245	20,092	6,313	26,405
June 2007	32	14	46	66	28	94	1,702	610	2,312	20,456	7,115	27,571

Notes

1 Data subject to sampling variability

2 Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution

Source

Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 2 Unemployed aged 16 and over, resident in the city of York constituency, city of York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and Great Britain

Thousand

	City of York constituency		*City of York unitary authority*		*Yorkshire and the Humber*		*Great Britain*	
12 months ending	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(Percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2, 3] *(Percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(Percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2] *(Percentage)*
February 1997	4	8.0	5	5.9	198	8.4	2,136	7.8
February 1998	4	7.3	5	5.7	172	7.3	1,851	6.7
February 1999	3	6.4	5	5.2	164	6.9	1,673	6.1
February 2000	2	5.2	4	4.5	152	6.4	1,641	5.9
February 2001	3	4.9	4	4.0	140	5.9	1,468	5.3
February 2002	2	4.3	3	3.6	121	5.1	1,404	5.0
February 2003	2	3.9	3	3.4	119	5.0	1,450	5.1
February 2004	3	4.7	4	3.7	121	5.0	1,399	4.9
March 2005	2	3.1	3	2.8	105	4.3	1,343	4.7
March 2006	2	3.9	3	3.2	124	5.1	1,445	5.0
March 2007	4	7.3	4	4.3	134	5.6	1,546	5.3
June 2007	4	7.1	4	4.2	135	5.5	1,528	5.2

[1] Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey data subject to sampling variability.

[2] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.

[3] Model-based estimates subject to random variability.

Note:

Changes in the estimates overtime should be treated with particular caution.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 3: Annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and proportions of working age population for residents of the city of York parliamentary constituency, city of York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and the United Kingdom

	City of York constituency		*City of York unitary authority*		*Yorkshire and the Humber*		*Great Britain*	
	Number of claimants	*Proportion[1] (Percentage)*	*Number of claimants*	*Proportion[1] (Percentage)*	*Number of claimants*	*Proportion[1] (Percentage)*	*Number of claimants*	*Proportion[1] (Percentage)*
1996	4,053	6.1	5,182	4.8	191,830	6.4	2,122,245	6.0
1997	3,002	4.5	3,786	3.5	151,995	5.1	1,602,442	4.5
1998	2,425	3.7	3,042	2.8	134,892	4.5	1,362,340	3.8
1999	2,190	3.3	2,762	2.5	124,675	4.1	1,263,001	3.5
2000	1,895	2.9	2,367	2.1	108,459	3.6	1,102,257	3.0
2001	1,676	2.5	2,120	1.9	97,453	3.2	982,998	2.7
2002	1,480	2.2	1,838	1.6	90,091	2.9	958,759	2.6
2003	1,437	2.2	1,808	1.6	84,995	2.8	945,894	2.6
2004	1,342	2.0	1,706	1.4	74,512	2.4	866,144	2.3
2005	1,331	2.0	1,689	1.4	77,306	2.5	874,417	2.3
2006	1,654	2.5	2,107	1.8	88,667	2.8	956,732	2.6
2007	1,455	2.2	1,857	1.5	82,049	2.6	872,959	2.3

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working age population.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are applied by HM Revenue and Customs in assessing the composition of biogas fuel for the purposes of applying duty; and if he will make a statement. [183751]

Angela Eagle: Biogas, or methane reclaimed from landfill and other organic matter, meets the definition of "natural road fuel gas" in section 8(3)(a) of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979, and is liable to duty at the rate of 13.70 pence per kilogram.

Under the Fuel-testing Pilot Projects (Biogas Project) Regulations 2006, biogas produced from landfill matter under a specific pilot project is exempt from duty for an experimental period.

Group Corporate Services: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time equivalent permanent staff headcount was for Group Corporate Services in each year since 1998; what the (i) contractor and (ii) temporary staff headcount was over the same period; how much was spent on (A) agency staff and (B) consultants by Group Corporate Services in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [170349]

Angela Eagle: The present Group Corporate Services (Group Shared Services) was formed on 1 April 2007 and include shared corporate services for HM Treasury and Office of Government Commerce (OGC).

The figures for the previous years represent the headcount and cost of the HR, IS, Estates, Internal Audit and Finance functions of core HM Treasury only.

Headcount and cost figures are available for year 2003 onwards as before this date they are not kept centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The same applies about agency staff and contractor headcount details.

	Headcount (in FTE)		*Spend on agency staff and consultants*
	Full-time	*Part-time*	£
2006-07	112.0	5.4	2,225,729
2005-06	116.0	5.5	2,550,064
2004-05	125.0	8.6	1,707,567
2003-04	133.0	7.0	1,745,410

The increase of headcount in year 2007-08 is due to the merging of OGC's and HMT's corporate services to create a group shared service. As part of this around 70 staff from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) transferred to the HM Treasury.

The spend on agency/contractors in the current financial year (up to October 2007) is no higher than previous years and it is anticipated that it will be below the total spend of the previous year.

Human Papilloma Virus: Finance

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the Barnett consequentials for the rollout of human papilloma vaccines for women in Wales in 2008. [183825]

Yvette Cooper: Funding for the Welsh Assembly Government in 2007-08 was announced as part of the 2004 spending review and in 2008-09 as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The Welsh Assembly Government received Barnett consequentials on the increases in spending for the Department of Health but the Welsh funding is on a block basis rather than disaggregated by specific spending streams such as funding for the rollout of accessing human papilloma vaccines for women.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many maxi ISAs were taken out by individual taxpayers in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [184141]

Angela Eagle: This information can be found in HMRC's published table 9.4 which provides details of subscriptions to ISAs by subscription type. A link can be found as follows.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9-4-by-year.htm

Leaseback Arrangements: Housing

Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to require the Financial Services Authority to regulate sale-and-leaseback schemes on residential property. [181931]

Angela Eagle: Sale and rent back arrangements are property transactions that do not involve the provision of credit, and so fall outside the scope of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage regime.

The Government are reviewing the evidence and will consider options to address any problems where appropriate.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of *(a)* all employees, *(b)* full-time employees and *(c)* part-time employees in (i) Scotland and (ii) each unitary local authority area in Scotland and the UK earned hourly rates (gross, excluding overtime) below (A) £8.05, (B) £6.05 and (C) £5.35 in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by gender. [183317]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply. The relevant table has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of *(a)* all employees, *(b)* full-time employees and *(c)* part-time employees in (i) Scotland and (ii) each unitary local authority area in Scotland and the UK earned hourly rates (gross, excluding overtime) below (A) £8.05, (B) £6.05 and (C) £5.35, broken down by gender in the last period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (183317)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is carried out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. However, ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category.

Levels of earnings are estimated from ASHE and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. I attach a table for 2007, showing the percentage of UK, Scotland and Scotland unitary local authority area employees in the categories stated.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* all employees, *(b)* full-time employees and *(c)* part-time employees in (i) Scotland, (ii) each of the unitary local authority areas in Scotland and (iii) the United Kingdom had weekly earnings (gross, including overtime) below (A) £301.95, (B) £226.69 and (C) £200.63, broken down by sex. [183938]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply. The relevant table has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of (a) all employees, (b) full-time employees and (c) part-time employees in (i) Scotland, (ii) each of the unitary local authority areas in Scotland and (iii) the United Kingdom had weekly earnings (gross, including overtime) below (A) £301.95, (B) £226.69 and (C) £200.63 for the categories, broken down by gender. I am replying in her absence. (183938)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is carried out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. However, ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category.

Levels of earnings are estimated from ASHE and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. I attach a table for 2007, showing the percentage of UK, Scotland and Scottish unitary local authority area employees in the categories stated.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 1353W, on migrant workers, in what economic sectors the 1.4 million additional foreign born workers of working age between 1997 and 2007 are working; and how many UK born individuals have gained a level 2 qualification in these sectors since 1997. [175385]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated 4 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the economic sectors in which the 1.4 million additional foreign born workers of working age between 1997 and 2007 are working; and how many UK born individuals have gained a level 2 qualification in these sectors since 1997. (175385)

The attached table firstly gives the change in number of working age foreign born workers in each industry sector. Secondly it provides the change in number of UK born workers who are qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, between the second quarter of 1997 and the second quarter of 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the labour force survey. The national statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the labour force survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Working age population[1], in employment by industry sector and highest qualification level, by country of birth April to June 1997, 2007: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Foreign-born			UK-born, qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 or equivalent		
	1997	*2007*	*Change*	*1997*	*2007*	*Change*
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	16	20	4	138	141	3
Energy and water	12	27	16	171	219	48
Manufacturing	302	415	113	2,211	1,856	-355
Construction	81	181	100	1,045	1,228	183
Distribution hotels and restaurants	418	664	246	1,725	2,087	363
Transport and communication	126	252	126	606	782	176
Finance and Business Services	330	642	312	1,963	2,596	633
Education, health and public admin	475	859	384	3,466	4,980	1,514
Other services	131	187	55	678	920	242
Total[2]	1,904	3,269	1,364	12,035	14,843	2,808

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] Includes those who did not state their industry.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates: Exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months. Exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent. Exclude people in most types of communal establishment, (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.) Are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more. Are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Money: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to *(a)* give the status of legal tender to banknotes issued by Scottish clearing banks and *(b)* create a legal obligation for English retailers to accept such notes. [183741]

Angela Eagle: The Government have no plans to introduce such legislation. The acceptability of banknotes or other payment arrangements for transactions is a matter for the parties concerned to agree upon.

Population

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's official estimate of the population of the United Kingdom was in each year since 1980. [178266]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the reasonability of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the Government's official estimate of the population of the United Kingdom was in each year since 1980. (178266)

The attached Table 1 shows the population of the United Kingdom for the years requested.

The latest population estimates available are mid-2006.

Table 1: Mid-year population estimates for the United Kingdom

	Thousand
1980	56,330
1981	56,357
1982	56,291
1983	56,316
1984	56,409
1985	56,554
1986	56,684
1987	56,804
1988	56,916
1989	57,076
1990	57,237
1991	57,439
1992	57,585
1993	57,714
1994	57,862
1995	58,025
1996	58,164
1997	58,314
1998	58,475
1999	58,684
2000	58,886
2001	59,113
2002	59,323
2003	59,557
2004	59,846
2005	60,238
2006	60,587

Sources:

1. Office for National Statistics.
2. General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Productivity

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage productivity changes were for *(a)* the tourism and leisure industry, *(b)* the service industry and *(c)* the UK economy in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [183922]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the percentage productivity changes were for (a) the tourism and leisure industry, (b) the service industry and (c) the UK economy in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. I am replying in her absence. (183922)

The UK does not produce Productivity estimates for the tourism and leisure industry. The tables below show the growth rate for the service sector and the UK whole economy for each year from 2002 to 2006. Table A shows the growth for the service sector on an output per hour basis. Table B shows the growth for the UK whole economy on an output per worker basis.

Table A: service sector output per hour annual growth, 2002 to 2006

	Annual growth rate (percentage)
2002	1.6
2003	1.5
2004	2.7
2005	0.7
2006	2.5

Table B: UK whole economy output per worker annual growth, 2002 to 2006

	Annual growth rate (percentage)
2002	1.0
2003	1.9
2004	2.2
2005	0.9
2006	2.1

Revenue and Customs: Labour Turnover

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rates of staff retention were in the tax offices in HM Revenue and Customs offices *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Wrexham and *(c)* Welshpool in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [183309]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the changes in staff numbers were in HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [183307]

Jane Kennedy: The table shows the full time equivalent numbers of staff in HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor departments on 1 April of each year.

	Number
2001	85,940
2002	87,080
2003	94,100
2004	98,270
2005	97,170
2006	92,888
2007	88,936

Winter Fuel Payments: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in receipt of the winter fuel payment in Wirral West constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [182924]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply:

In winter 2006-07 we made 20,040 winter fuel payments to people in the Wirral, West constituency. We expect the number to be similar for this winter.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Employment: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in Enfield borough in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008 as a percentage of the working-age population. [183472]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were employed in Enfield North constituency and Enfield borough in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007 as a percentage of working age population. I am replying in her absence. (183471, 183472).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 attached shows the number of people aged 16 and over and those of working-age (Males 16-64 years and Females 16-59 years) resident in the Enfield, North constituency and in Enfield borough who were in employment for the 12 months ending in February 1998 from the annual LFS and for the 12 months ending in June 2007 from the APS. The table also shows the corresponding employment rates for the 12 months ending in February 1998 and the 12 months ending in June 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Change in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Table 1: Employment in Enfield, North constituency and Enfield borough

	Enfield, North			*Enfield borough*		
	16+	*Working age*		*16+*	*Working age*	
12 months ending	*Level (000)*	*Level (000)*	*Rate (%)*	*Level (000)*	*Level (000)*	*Rate (%)*
February 1998	41	40	75.2	128	124	77.2
June 2007	56	53	73.9	130	124	69.5

Note:

Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to *(a)* implement and *(b)* promote community calls to action by local authorities introduced under the Police and Justice Act 2006. [183239]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working together to agree implementation plans—including agreeing a timetable for implementation.

In particular the Home Office is keen to ensure that this work complements wider developments on local accountability. Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing, which will publish its final report soon, and the Policing Green Paper, to be published later this year, will have more to say on this issue.

Centre for Spatial Economic Research: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has allocated to the Centre for Spatial Economic Research for 2007-08. [183247]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has allocated £43,750 to the Centre on Spatial Economic Research for 2007-08.

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182449]

Mr. Dhanda: Agencies could only answer this question in full at disproportionate cost, but the following information is available for the total spend on Christmas cards in 2007:

	£ *Spend*
Fire Service College	917.05
Planning Inspectorate	Nil
Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre	Nil
Ordnance Survey	625

Community Centres: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many village halls and community centres were recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's ratings list in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [178619]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency does not separately describe village halls or community centres in the rating lists.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has allocated to the *(a)* Preventing Violent Extremism pathfinder fund and *(b)* Preventing Violent Extremism community leadership fund for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [183580]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* We will announce the funding allocations for local authorities and for the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership fund for 2008-09 in the near future.

Funding allocations for local authorities and for the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund for 2009-11 will be announced in due course.

Council Housing: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W, on council housing: energy, if she will make it her policy to issue guidance on sustainable ways of replacing windows in local authority-owned homes. [181239]

Mr. Iain Wright: The BRE Green Guide currently provides advice on the sustainability of building materials including windows. Our Code for Sustainable (new) Homes draws on the assessments in that guide. This information is available to local authorities in making their own investment decisions on improving their housing stock.

Existing guidance on the decent homes standard states landlords may also want to consider other factors when carrying out work to makes homes decent including carrying out works in an environmentally sustainable way. It refers landlords to Green Street, a web-based tool for sustainable refurbishment developed by Sustainable Homes and the Housing Corporation (www.greenstreet.org.uk).

We do not believe it is necessary to issue further advice on this issue to local authorities.

Government Departments: Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much total funding via *(a)* revenue support, *(b)* capital grant and *(c)* supported borrowing was provided from all central Government Departments to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in each year since 1992. [183093]

John Healey: The central Government revenue funding to Kent county council, Thanet district council and Dover district council in each year since 1993 is as follows:

£000

	Kent county council	Dover district council	Thanet district council
1993-94	845,077	7,929	11,394
1994-95	875,246	8,262	11,105
1995-96	754,685	8,088	10,613
1996-97	781,543	8,490	11,381
1997-98	786,516	8,522	11,457
1998-99	699,509	8,338	11,868
1999-2000	755,146	8,582	11,891
2000-01	841,362	9,147	12,297
2001-02	904,878	9,369	12,895
2002-03	960,539	9,646	13,218
2003-04	1,049,759	9,912	14,022
2004-05	1,094,036	9,450	14,432
2005-06	1,129,800	9,774	13,952
2006-07	1,168,806	10,811	15,766

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

The large differences between 1994-95 and 1995-96 and between 1997-98 and 1998-99 for Kent county council are as a result of local authority re-organisation.

Central Government revenue funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services. In past years, it also includes the SSA reduction grant, central support protection grant, council tax benefit subsidy limitation scheme.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

The amount of capital grants provided to local authorities by central Government is not available. Funding of supported borrowing is included indistinguishably in revenue funding given in the table.

Greater London Authority: Audit

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work the *(a)* District Auditor and *(b)* Audit Commission have undertaken on recent claims of impropriety in the allocation of grants by the London Development Agency and the Greater London Authority. [183092]

John Healey: It would be inappropriate for me to comment as the District Auditor and Audit Commission are both independent of Government and the District Auditor's investigations are ongoing. This is an operational matter for the Audit commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 4 February 2008:

Your parliamentary question on whether the district auditor has oversight over the *(a)* London Development Agency and *(b)* Greater London Authority has been passed to me for reply.

I think it would be helpful at the outset to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Audit Commission and the appointed auditor, before turning to the work being undertaken by the District Auditor for the Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Development Agency (LDA).

The role of the Audit Commission

The Audit Commission (the Commission) is an independent body with statutory responsibilities to regulate the audit of local government and NHS bodies in England. The Commission's statutory responsibilities in relation to audit are set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998 (the Act). They are to:

appoint auditors to local government and NHS bodies;

prescribe how auditors should carry out their functions through a statutory Code of Audit Practice, which is approved by Parliament at five-yearly intervals;

set scales of fees for audit work; and

make arrangements for certifying grant claims and returns.

The Commission appoints professionally qualified auditors from its own staff (known as District Auditors) and private firms of auditors. Once appointed, auditors carry out their statutory and other responsibilities, and are required by the Code of Audit Practice to exercise their professional judgement, independently of the Commission.

The separation between the Commission and its appointed auditors is reflected in statute and case law. The Act confers the duties and powers of the appointed auditor on appointed auditors, who exercise their duties and powers in their own right.

The statutory independence of auditors means that the Commission cannot:

interfere with an appointed auditor's exercise of his or her professional skill and judgement in performing his or her statutory functions;

substitute its own judgements for those of an appointed auditor in the exercise of those functions; or

direct an appointed auditor to act or to review his or her decisions, as only the courts have the powers to do so.

The Commission appoints the auditors to the GLA and its associated bodies including the LDA. The District Auditor for both the GLA and the LDA is Mike Haworth-Maden.

It is not therefore a matter for the Commission itself to investigate the recent claims of impropriety in the allocation of grants by the LDA and the GLA. Those claims are properly matters for the consideration of the independent District Auditor in the exercise of his functions (see below).

The role of the appointed auditor

The Audit Commission Act 1998 sets out the specific statutory duties of appointed auditors.

They are:

to comply with the Code of Audit Practice;

to give an opinion on the accounts of the audited body;

to satisfy themselves that the accounts comply with statutory requirements and have been compiled in accordance with proper practices;

to satisfy themselves that the audited body has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and

to certify completion of the audit.

In addition, auditors of local government bodies (which include the GLA and LDA) have other statutory duties and powers:

to consider issuing a public interest report about any matter that comes to their attention during the audit, which they judge should be considered by the audited body or brought to public attention;

> to decide whether the audited body should consider formally, and respond to in public, matters raised in an audit report;
>
> to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the accounts, and consider and decide on objections received from electors about the accounts; and
>
> where unlawful expenditure has been or is about to be incurred by an audited body, to issue an advisory notice, to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful or apply for judicial review.

The Code of Audit Practice requires that where, in the course of an audit, representations are made to the auditor or information is provided that is relevant to the audit, or matters relevant to the audit otherwise come to their attention, auditors should consider whether the matter needs investigation and action.

Work carried out by the District Auditor

The District Auditor is currently considering a number of allegations concerning the allocation of grants that have recently been reported in the media. I understand that matters have also been referred to him by three MPs and the London Assembly.

The District Auditor is considering these matters in the context of his statutory responsibilities. His initial focus has been the conduct and findings of the GLA's and LDA's internal reviews to date. In this context, he has received the reports on the reviews recently undertaken by the Statutory Finance Officers:

(a) for the GLA, the report of the Executive Director of Finance and Performance dated 9 January 2008 (which is available on the GLA's website); and

(b) for the LDA, the report of the Group Director, Risk and Resources dated 11 January 2008 (which is available on the LDA's website).

His work to assess the conduct and findings of those reviews, and other related internal activity undertaken to date by the GLA and LDA, is currently in progress. As part of this, he has recently met officers from the Metropolitan Police with regard to the ongoing police investigations into a number of matters that the LDA's Statutory Finance Officer has referred to the police.

On the basis of his assessment of the internal reviews carried out by the GLA and the LDA, he will assess the further work required on his part, including whether further information, interviews or other investigation activity (of the GLA and LDA itself, or of third parties) is required with regard to the specific projects referred to him. This will also inform his wider assessment of the GLA and LDA in the context of his statutory responsibilities, including the arrangements for making grants.

In following the approach set out, he will need to have regard to other ongoing work, including:

> the Metropolitan Police's ongoing investigations;
>
> the further work that the LDA is carrying out on a number of specific projects, but also with regard to its planned wider risk-based project review; and
>
> London Assembly scrutiny activity.

It is too early to assess the timescale for completion of this exercise.

I hope you find the above helpful. Please contact me, or Mr Haworth-Maden, should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the district auditor has oversight over the *(a)* London Development Agency and *(b)* Greater London Authority. [183237]

John Healey: Yes.

Hostels

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* walk-in and *(b)* referral-only hostel places were available in each region in England in each year since 1997. [184393]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect information on walk-in and referral-only hostel spaces.

Homeless UK, an online national database of accommodation services for the homeless which is funded by Communities and Local Government, holds current information on direct access hostels for rough sleepers on a regional basis—see table as follows. Direct access hostels for rough sleepers are short stay emergency services for rough sleepers where people are usually referred in by outreach services or self-refer.

Direct access hostels listed on Homeless UK by region

	Bedspaces		Hostels	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
East Midlands	615	7	18	7
East of England	435	7	18	7
London	2,378	27	43	18
North East	498	6	14	6
North West	1,310	15	42	17
South East	964	11	37	15
South West	767	9	27	11
West Midlands	1,212	14	22	9
Yorkshire and Humber	773	9	25	10
England	8,952	100	246	100

Housing: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 546-47W, on housing: energy, what her Department's estimate is of the costs of retrofitting the existing *(a)* public and *(b)* private domestic housing stock to meet minimum standards for energy efficiency at entry level (one star rating) of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [178910]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not made such an estimate because the code for sustainable homes applies to new homes, not existing homes. The Department's impact assessment into making ratings mandatory under the code that formed part of the Impact Assessment of the Housing and Regeneration Bill includes an estimate of the increased build costs arising for new homes at the different code levels against current building regulations standards. This assessment is available on the

Department's website:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/HousingandRegBill

The Department's review of the sustainability of existing homes includes an estimate of the costs of installing specific energy savings measures into existing homes.

Housing: Publications

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department received a draft copy of the National Audit Office's report on Housing Market Renewal. [166235]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: We received the first draft of the National Audit Office's report on Housing Market Renewal on 10 September 2007.

Housing: Regional Planning and Development

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities that sign up to growth point status are committed to support accelerated housing development in Green Belt areas if these are included in draft Regional Spatial Strategy allocations. [183438]

Mr. Iain Wright: The New Growth Points initiative will encourage well-planned, sustainable growth and much of the new development will be focused on brownfield sites within existing town and city boundaries. Further, New Growth Point status is tested by the planning system and the implications for any green belt land would be subject to consultation and examination of the relevant proposals through the regional planning process and local development frameworks.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a local authority's proposal to gain growth point status must involve acceptance of housing growth to at least the level proposed by the Regional Spatial Strategy; and whether there is a requirement for this growth to be accelerated. [183439]

Mr. Iain Wright: Expressions of interest for growth points will need to offer significant, strategic growth which is additional to previous plans and which takes into account changes in plan levels between 2003, the current round of RSS reviews and the Housing Green Paper which sets a new national target of delivering 240,000 homes a year by 2016. The rate of housing growth will be determined by the regional planning process and local development frameworks.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expectations her Department has of local authorities who apply for and accept growth point status in terms of *(a)* accelerated and *(b)* additional housing growth compared with the levels of growth proposed by the relevant Regional Spatial Strategy. [183440]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper sets a new target of delivering 240,000 homes a year by 2016 but the rate of housing growth in specific local and regional areas will be determined by the regional planning process and local development frameworks. Potential growth points are expected to offer significant additional growth to previous plans that take into account changes in plan levels between 2003, the current round of RSS reviews and the Housing Green Paper national targets.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has budgeted for additional funding to local authorities with growth point status; and for what purposes local authorities would be permitted to use these additional funds. [183441]

John Healey: The Department will be investing £1.7 billion across Growth Areas, the Thames Gateway, Growth Points and Eco-Towns during the CSR07 period, and it is intended to announce funding specific to the 2nd round of growth points in the spring. This will be subject to similar funding conditions to that for existing growth points, announced in December.

Ipsos-Mori

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to Ipsos-MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [176601]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 117W.

Islam: Females

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to select the attendees at the two roundtable meetings hosted by her Department since April 2007 in which women's access to mosque life was discussed. [183577][1]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The attendees were selected using a range of factors including their expertise and knowledge and the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda. All the participants are in leadership positions within key organisations and have links to grass-root communities, ensuring balanced representation across Muslim communities.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the development of leadership skills among Muslim *(a)* women and *(b)* young people in each year since 1997. [183584]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was formed on 5 May 2006. Since that date £118,000 has been spent directly by the Department on projects relating to the development of leadership skills of women and £225,000 on projects relating to the development of leadership skills of young people.

DCLG has also provided £6.5 million 'Pathfinder Funding' to local authorities for work to build the resilience of Muslim communities and some of this work will include building the leadership skills of Muslim women and young people. A full list of all work funded through the Pathfinder Fund is available from the Library of the House.

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[1] *[Official Report, 22 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 11MC.]*

Other DCLG projects may have supported work to develop leadership skills but it is not possible to quantify the specific impact on Muslim women and young people.

Local Authorities: Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consent is needed from *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* the government office for the region for a local authority to designate additional land with green belt status. [182382]

Mr. Iain Wright: Green belts are established through development plans. Proposals for new green belts should be considered through Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), or, in London the Spatial Development Strategy, in the first instance. RSS are prepared by regional planning bodies on behalf of the Secretary of State, who formally approves and publishes the final RSS. In London, the Mayor prepares the Spatial Development Strategy and no specific consent is needed from the Secretary of State to any green belt proposals.

Local Development Documents prepared by local planning authorities set the detailed boundaries of the green belt. No specific consent is needed from the Secretary of State to these boundaries.

Government Offices make representations to regional planning bodies and local planning authorities on behalf of the Secretary of State but have no formal powers to give or withhold consent.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gross income, in cash terms, was raised from sales, fees and charges, by local authorities in England, in each year since 1997-98. [183255]

John Healey: Table 2.5a of Local Government Financial Statistics (LGFS) England gives details of the total gross income raised from sales, fees and charges by local authorities in England. The 1997-98 information was published in LGFS No. 15: 2004, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in LGFS No. 16: 2005 and 2000-01 to 2004-05 in LGFS No. 17: 2007. LGFS No. 17 also included an initial estimate for 2005-06. These publications are in the Library of the House and are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

An initial estimate for 2006-07 was published in the 2006-07 Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing England final outturn Statistical Release. Later estimates for 2005-06 and 2006-07 will be published in LGFS No. 18 later this year.

Local Government Finance: South West Region

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the external funding received per head of population is for each local authority in the south-west region, in descending order. [182543]

Mr. Dhanda: The central Government grant per head for each local authority in the south-west region for 2006-07 in descending order is tabled as follows.

Local authority	*£ per head*
Isles of Scilly	2,101
Plymouth UA	1,103
Bristol UA	1,040
Torbay UA	1,028
Swindon UA	960
Bournemouth UA	955
Cornwall	885
North Somerset UA	842
South Gloucestershire UA	837
Somerset	824
Gloucestershire	813
Bath and North East Somerset UA 810	
Poole UA	783
Devon	760
Wiltshire	748
Dorset	685
Avon and Somerset Police Authority 119	
Gloucestershire Police Authority 117	
Gloucester	116
Dorset Police Authority	116
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority 116	
Exeter	114
Wiltshire Police Authority	108
Kerrier	108
West Somerset	106
Penwith	106
North Cornwall	106
Torridge	99
Weymouth and Portland	98
Restormel	97
Carrick	97
Sedgemoor	95
North Devon	91
Caradon	89
Forest of Dean	88
Cheltenham	88
Teignbridge	87
West Dorset	86
Taunton Deane	86
Mid Devon	86
West Devon	85
Purbeck	80
South Somerset	79
Mendip	79
Stroud	78
South Hams	78
Cotswold	76
Christchurch	76

Local authority	*£ per head*
Tewkesbury	73
Kennet	73
North Wiltshire	72
West Wiltshire	71
North Dorset	71
East Devon	68
Salisbury	66
East Dorset	49
Avon Combined Fire Authority	24
Devon Combined Fire Authority	19
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	15
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	14
Exmoor National Park Authority	n/a
Dartmoor National Park Authority	n/a

Notes

1 Central government grant is defined here as the sum of Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

2 Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

3 Figures for individual authorities vary considerably and are not directly comparable as different types of authority have different responsibilities.

4 Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for 2006. Population figures are not currently available for National Park authorities.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) 2006-07 returns

M61: Noise

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost to the public purse incurred by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* the Manchester North Valuation Tribunal was in relation to the High Court case held on 18 December 2007 in relation to traffic noise on the M61. [183032]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency costs of counsel involved in preparation for the High Court and presentation of the case, including court fees, was £4,190. The Manchester North Valuation Tribunal was not involved in proceedings at the High Court hearing.

Mayor of London: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether there is a code of conduct for the Mayor of London's political advisers; [183238]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 773, on London Development Agency/Mayor of London, if she will bring forward proposals for a statutory code of conduct for the Mayor of London's political advisers. [178702]

John Healey: It is for the Greater London Authority to determine the nature and scope of any code of conduct for GLA employees, including the Mayor's political advisers. There are no current plans to produce a statutory code of conduct for the Mayor of London's political advisers.

Milton Keynes Partnership

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what key performance targets have been set for the Milton Keynes Partnership. [184075]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* Milton Keynes Partnership is a Committee of English Partnerships, and its targets are laid out in its 2007-08 to 2011-12 Business Plan, which is a public document available on its website (www.miltonkeynespartnership.info). These include:

the need to develop a visionary plan for Milton Keynes;

the need to increase the pace of housing delivery and employment growth consistent with Government targets;

to ensure the timely delivery of infrastructure provision;

to enhance the quality of life in Milton Keynes;

to encourage effective community and stakeholder engagement; and

to support community cohesion.

The performance targets are reported on annually, each March, and monitored by Milton Keynes Partnership Committee, the Local Strategic Partnership and are subject to regular scrutiny by Milton Keynes council's external scrutiny panel. The Government also monitors and reviews the Business Plan before it is set.

Minister for the West Midlands

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resources have been given to the Minister for the West Midlands to enable him to perform his duties. [180766]

Mr. Dhanda: 'The Governance of Britain' Green Paper, published on 3 July, set out the proposed role of Regional Ministers. Regional Ministers ensure that Government policy takes account of the differing needs of the nine English regions. Regional Ministers make central Government more visible in the regions, helping to raise their profile and generate awareness of the political system. The functions that Regional Ministers undertake are mostly clustered around the responsibilities of the Government offices and the RDAs, particularly in relation to economic development, although they do have a more general ambassadorial role.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits the Minister for the West Midlands has made to organisations in the region since assuming the role in June 2007. [180825]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Minister for the west midlands has visited the following organisations since his appointment:

South Shropshire district council

A flood-damaged Newbridge nursery/farm at Cleobury Mortimer.
BMW plant at Hams Hall in Coleshill, North Warwickshire
The Regional Partnership Centre
The West Midlands business council
The West Midlands Regional Assembly
The Science City partnership
Birmingham city council
Blitz games in Leamington Spa
Telford and Wrekin council
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage
The Ricoh factory
Keele Science and Business Park
North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership
Waterside Housing development
University quarter in Stoke-on-Trent
Stoke city council
Wolverhampton university science park
Wolverhampton Urban Regeneration Company
Walsall Art Gallery
Dudley Limestone Caverns
Business leaders at the West Bromwich Building Society
The Innovation Centre at Longbridge
The Guild/Pridmore estate
Whitefriars Housing Association
Government office west midlands
Jobcentre Plus
Learning and Skills Centre
West Midlands strategic health authority
Advantage West Midlands.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provides for the Minister for the West Midlands in pursuit of his regional responsibilities. [180827]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: The Government office for the west midlands supports the role of the Regional Minister. This support was provided by one full-time equivalent staff when the role was created and has now expanded into two full-time equivalent staff to manage the delivery of the Ministers priorities in the region.

Mosques and Imams Advisory Committee: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has allocated to the Mosques and Imams Advisory Committee in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [183579]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Department has not committed any funding to the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 or 2010-2011.

Persimmon

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from Persimmon in the last 12 months; and what meetings between her Department and Persimmon have taken place in the same period. [178914]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of any representations that may have been made by Persimmon to the Department could be found only at disproportionate cost. Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to planning authorities on the relative account to be taken of *(a)* supplementary planning guidance and *(b)* a design brief without supplementary planning document status. [178741]

Mr. Iain Wright: Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) may contain policies which expand or supplement the policies in development plan documents. They form part of the local development framework. Since the new planning system was introduced in 2004, the Government have advised that local planning authorities should not produce supplementary guidance other than supplementary planning documents, in order to ensure that guidance follows minimum standards of consultation and appraisal. If any supplementary guidance has been drawn up other than as an SPD, it does not have a defined role and the weight to be afforded it will depend on the circumstances of the case. No guidance has been issued on this matter.

An exception to this concerns supplementary material produced before 2004: Paragraph 5.23 of Planning Policy Statement 12 "Local Development Frameworks" states that:

> 'On commencement of the new planning system, existing supplementary planning guidance will not automatically lose its status and will continue to exist as non-statutory guidance whilst the relevant saved policies are in place'.

Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many branded plastic bags *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Audit Commission, *(c)* the Housing Corporation and *(d)* the Standards Board for England have procured in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [178655]

Mr. Dhanda: Departmental records show that there have been two orders placed in the last 24 months for 300,000 bags for the Fire Kills campaign which has helped reduce the number of deaths from fires, costing in total £19,550 excluding vat.

The Audit Commission has not acquired any branded plastic bags in the last 24 months.

The Housing Corporation has had no expenditure on these types of products.

Standards Board for England did not procure any branded plastic bags in the last 24 months.

Press Releases: Minister for the West Midlands

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press releases the Minister for the West Midlands has issued in his capacity as a regional Minister since he was appointed. [180839]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for the West Midlands has issued 16 press releases in his capacity as a Regional Minister as follows:

Liam Byrne MP, West Midlands Minister, To visit Ludlow, Shropshire on Monday, 16 July 2007;

Liam Byrne—Challenges Region's Public Services on British Jobs For British Workers;

Liam Byrne Challenges Region's Public Services on British Jobs In Britain;

Liam Byrne—Brings the 'Ideas People' Together;

Liam Byrne—Brings the 'Ideas People' Together;

West Midlands Leadership Group to Drive New Jobs and New Homes;

Liam Byrne, Welcomes Climate Change Action Plan;

Liam Byrne—Visits Bromyard, Herefordshire;

Birmingham Can Be One of Europe's Global Gateways;

Regional Minister Liam Byrne Meets Top Birmingham Exporters;

Ministers Lead Summit on Culture And Regional Image;

Regional Strategies Show the Way To Jobs, Homes And Prosperity For The West Midlands;

Liam Byrne visits Stoke-on-Trent And Staffordshire;

£4.3 Million Funding Milestone For University Quarter In Stoke-on-Trent;

Liam Byrne Backs Black Country Big Lottery Bid; and

Ministers Challenge Region's Universities To Make West Midlands Number One Choice For Students.

Property Development: Dunsfold Park

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from representatives of Dunsfold Park Ltd in relation to the proposed development in Dunsfold Park, Surrey; and what meetings her Department's representatives have had with that company. [182597]

Caroline Flint: Several representations have been received from Dunsfold Park Limited and its advisers in support of its plans for the former Dunsfold Aerodrome. A number of meetings have also been held with officials in the Department and the Government office for the south-east since July 2005 to clarify aspects of national planning policy that would apply to any such development.

As one of a number of housing initiatives under way, the Government are considering eco-towns and, as part of this, has sought expressions of interest from developers and local authorities. To reveal the details of recent meetings and representations from developers when this process is underway would have the potential to be detrimental to the process, and those that have put forward eco-towns proposals.

Regeneration: Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of her report to the Prime Minister on regeneration strategies for East Manchester not based on a super casino. [184110]

John Healey: In July, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that the Government would look at whether deprived areas could be equally well served by other forms of regeneration than the development of regional casinos. While Manchester will clearly have an interest in the findings of the review, the response is not specific to alternatives to a regional casino in east Manchester—it applies to deprived areas more broadly.

Copies of our conclusions will be placed in the Library of the House upon publication.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were sleeping rough in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Northamptonshire and *(d)* Wellingborough constituency in each of the last five years. [183966]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: The following table shows the number of people found sleeping rough on local authority street counts in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* Northamptonshire and *(d)* Wellingborough in each of the last five years. Data have been drawn from local authority Housing Strategy and Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	504	508	459	502	498
London	267	265	221	267	248
Northamptonshire	7	8	12	11	0
Wellingborough	0	0	1	0	0

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the level of rough sleeping unrecorded by annual street counts; and if she will make a statement. [184392]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authority rough sleeping counts are conducted in accordance with methodology agreed with and independently verified by the voluntary sector. We recognise that those counted on a single night do not represent all those who may have experienced sleeping rough over the course of a year, but street counts enable effective measurement of trends in rough sleeping over time and across regions. CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network) is another valuable source of rough sleeping information which is based on outreach team contact with rough sleepers in London.

Unitary Councils

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 120W, on unitary councils, when she will place the information cited in the Library; if she will ensure that the information is placed in the Library before the relevant Statutory Instrument is considered in the House; if she will list the categories of information to be placed in the Library; and why there has been a delay in placing the information in the Library. [183838]

John Healey: All the councils concerned placed on their websites details of the further information sought from them on their unitary proposals. There are a large number of separate documents involved and so I have first placed copies of the information in the Library for those proposals in relation to the statutory instruments that will be considered shortly in the House. This information falls into the following categories:

(1) the questions DCLG posed to the local authorities in February 2007;

(2) the written responses to those questions received in February 2007;

(3) notes of the meetings to discuss the questions;

(4) the further questions DCLG posed to the local authorities in March 2007; and

(5) the written responses to those questions received in March 2007.

I will place in the Library of the House similar information on the remaining proposals in due course and before the relevant statutory instruments are debated.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of single mothers receiving child support in the London borough of Bexley. [182095]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of single mothers receiving child support in the London borough of Bexley. [182095]

At the end of September 2007, there were 1,040 female parents with care with an address in the London borough of Bexley that were receiving child support. Not all of these will be single mothers as some may have re-partnered or re-married. The management information held by the Agency does not record if the parents with care are single.

Cases have been allocated to a local authority (borough) using the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory. There will be a small number of cases where the postcode is unknown or not recorded and therefore cannot be allocated to a local authority.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182447]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 933W.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179939]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Parliamentary approval for the Department for Work and Pensions' spending plans is sought through supply estimates presented to the House of Commons. Consequently the Department for Work and Pensions revenue is obtained from HM Treasury via the parliamentary vote system.

Sections 150 and 150A of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 prescribe the benefits that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions must review on an annual basis and those that must be up-rated. The prices related indexes that are used in those benefits up-rated in line with prices are the retail prices index, and the rossi index (which is the retail prices index with the housing elements removed).

The following table shows the basis on which benefits have generally been uprated in recent years, some, but not all, of which are prescribed by legislation.

Benefit	*Basis on which benefits have been uprated*
Attendance allowance; disability living allowance	RPI
Carer's allowance	RPI
Incapacity benefit; severe disablement allowance	RPI
Industrial death benefit	Rate of widows pension
Industrial injuries disablement benefit	RPI
Income support, jobseeker's allowance, council tax benefit, housing benefit personal allowances, disability premium, enhanced disability premium, carer premium	Rossi
Amounts for dependent children/family premiums	Provided by HMRC
Pensioner premiums	By reference to pension credit standard minimum guarantee
Pensioner aged 60-64 (housing benefit and council tax benefit only)	Rate of pension credit standard minimum guarantee
Pensioner aged 65 and over (housing benefit and council tax benefit only)	Rate of pension credit standard minimum guarantee plus maximum savings credit
Severe disability premium	RPI

Benefit	*Basis on which benefits have been uprated*
Non-dependant deductions	Earnings limits increased in line with average earnings
Service charges for fuel deduction (housing benefit only)	RPI fuel and light
Maternity allowance	Rate of statutory maternity pay
Pension Credit	
Standard minimum guarantee	Earnings
Additional amount for severe disability	RPI
Additional amount for carers	Rossi
Maximum savings credit	Earnings[1]
Pneumoconiosis, byssinosis and miscellaneous diseases scheme and the workmen's compensation (supplementation)	RPI
State pension	RPI
Statutory maternity pay, statutory adoption pay, statutory paternity pay[2]	RPI
Statutory sick pay	RPI
Widow's benefit	Rate of state pension
Bereavement benefits	
Widowed parent's allowance	Rate of state pension
Bereavement allowance	Rate of state pension

[1] From April 2008

[2] These payments are the responsibility of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform however they are up-rated by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181816]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department is committed to reducing its direct and indirect carbon dioxide emissions by reducing energy consumption and business travel.

We work closely with our Estates Partners, Land Securities Trillium to reduce energy consumption, and as a consequence the carbon dioxide emissions resulting from our operations across our estate.

There are a number of initiatives currently under way which have already shown average reductions of 8.5 per cent. in electricity consumption and 23 per cent. in fossil fuel consumption over the past two years. This equates to an overall reduction of 16.9 per cent. in our indirect carbon dioxide emissions in the same period. So far we have concentrated on our larger sites, which represent two-thirds of our overall energy consumption. This programme is ongoing, will be expanded to our smaller sites,, and continues to make a significant impact on emissions.

The programme includes installing new energy saving technologies (e.g. voltage optimisation devices and passive infrared controls), more energy efficient equipment (e.g. IT), and Automated Meter Reading (AMR) to provide better quality management information leading to quicker resolution of issues and improved staff involvement.

We have also identified sites for possible micro-generation schemes (e.g. wind turbines, solar-thermal and bio-mass boilers). We will continue to explore the practicalities of installing these technologies at appropriate locations across our estate.

A review of business travel was undertaken in 2007 and a number of recommendations are being implemented. These include reducing our average vehicle emissions below the current Government target and setting targets to reduce business mileage travelled by car.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168589]

James Purnell: The Department has approximately 143,500 computers and laptops in service. 21 were reported as stolen (or lost presumed to be stolen), in the year to 31 December 2007 (0.01 per cent). None are believed to have contained any customer data. The total value of the stolen items has been estimated at approximately £14,250.

Disability Discrimination Act 2005

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to increase awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and its implications for business; and if he will make a statement. [181661]

Mrs. McGuire: We continue to undertake promotional work to make businesses aware of their obligations under disability discrimination legislation. In particular we have sought to illustrate straightforward reasonable adjustments that could be made in order to meet their duty towards customers and employees, and to also highlight the wide range of impairments covered under the Act.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of providing disability living allowance instead of attendance allowance to those who have a disability that commences after the age of 65. [181808]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available as there are no reliable data available on which estimates could be made.

Disability Living Allowance: Mentally Ill

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many representations he has received on the rights of people with mental illnesses to claim the higher level of mobility benefit under the disability living allowance in each of the last three years. [182159]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last three years, our records show that we have received a very small number of representations relating to the rights of people with mental illnesses to claim the higher rate mobility component.

Employment: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed in Enfield, North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008 as a percentage of the working-age population. [183471]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were employed in Enfield North constituency and Enfield borough in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007 as a percentage of working-age population. I am replying in her absence. (183471, 183472).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 attached shows the number of people aged 16 and over and those of working-age (Males 16-64 years and Females 16-59 years) resident in the Enfield, North constituency and in Enfield borough who were in employment for the 12 months ending in February 1998 from the annual LFS and for the 12 months ending in June 2007 from the APS. The table also shows the corresponding employment rates for the 12 months ending in February 1998 and the 12 months ending in June 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Change in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Table 1: Employment in Enfield, North constituency and Enfield borough

	Enfield, North			*Enfield borough*		
	16+	*Working age*		*16+*	*Working age*	
12 months ending	*Level (000)*	*Level (000)*	*Rate (%)*	*Level (000)*	*Level (000)*	*Rate (%)*
February 1998	41	40	75.2	128	124	77.2
June 2007	56	53	73.9	130	124	69.5

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Graduates: Unemployed

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many university graduates were registered unemployed in each of the last five years. [179360]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 February 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply your Parliamentary Question on how many university graduates were registered unemployed in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (179360)

Information on claimants of Job Seekers Allowance, as collected by the Department for Work and Pensions, does not include the type of qualifications held. As an alternative, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides the numbers of people who are unemployed according to the ILO (International Labour Organisation) definition and this can be broken down by type of qualification held.

The attached table gives unemployment figures for graduates and all people aged 16+ for the three month period ending June each year, from 2003 to 2007.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployed[1] people aged 16+, 2003-07[2]—UK, not seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
	Total	*Graduates[3]*
2003	1,401	144
2004	1,368	136
2005	1,364	138
2006	1,604	168
2007	1,573	156

[1] According to the ILO (International Labour Organisation) definition of unemployed, i.e. those who are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who want a job and have been seeking a job in the last four weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.
[2] For the three-month period, April to June each year.
[3] Those who hold qualifications to degree level or higher.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Jobseeker's Allowance: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had received job seeker's allowance for two years or more in each London borough at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what steps the Government plan to take to reduce the numbers. [181691]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest available information is in the following table.

We announced plans for significant changes to the way we help and support jobseeker's allowance customers back into work in our Green Paper Response Paper 'Ready for Work' in December 2007.

From April 2009, a stepped programme of support will be available for all customers from day one. The successful New Deal Gateway will be refreshed and introduced for all customers from six months of a claim. From October 2009, all those unemployed for 12 months will enter a new flexible New Deal, receiving intensive support from a specialist provider. During their time with a provider we expect all customers will enter work or participate in some form of full time activity increasing the chances of work.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants with a duration of 2 years and over by London borough as at December 2007

	Number
Barking and Dagenham	95
Barnet	170
Bexley	45
Brent	605
Bromley	115
Camden	220
City of London	0
Croydon	145
Ealing	155
Enfield	190
Greenwich	130
Hackney	280
Hammersmith and Fulham	100
Haringey	695
Harrow	40
Havering	60
Hillingdon	70
Hounslow	45
Islington	165
Kensington and Chelsea	100
Kingston-upon-Thames	15
Lambeth	305
Lewisham	220
Merton	75
Newham	460
Red bridge	100
Richmond-upon-Thames	30
Southwark	775
Sutton	50
Tower Hamlets	910
Waltham Forest	235
Wandsworth	200
Westminster, City of	170

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures are based on computer held cases only.

Source:
NOMIS 100 per cent count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of his Department's employees who hold temporary national insurance numbers; and what his Department's policy is on the employment of staff with temporary national insurance numbers. [181849]

Mrs. McGuire: No current DWP employees hold a temporary national insurance number (NINO).

The Department's recruitment policy is not to employ people until they can provide a valid NINO.

Pension Credit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who will have reached the age of 60 between 23 September 2007 and 29 February 2008 who live alone and receive pension credit or jobseeker's allowance; [181390]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who will have reached the age of 60 between 23 September 2007 and 29 February 2008 who live in a care home and do not claim pension credit; [181391]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who will have reached the age of 60 between 23 September 2007 and 29 February 2008 who live with a partner who receives pension credit or jobseekers' allowance on their behalf. [181403]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 January 2008]*: The information requested is not available.

Pension Service: ICT

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers were incorrectly identified as being in prison due to a computer fault by the Pension Service over the last 12 months. [179588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Over the last 12 months, seven Pension Service customers were incorrectly identified as being in prison when in fact this was not the case. All affected cases were related to a winter fuel payment. The error has now been corrected, correct payments allocated and a letter of apology sent to the customers.

Pensioners: Poverty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of old age pensioners living in poverty in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London. [181686]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. However the available information for each of the regions containing the areas in the question is given in the following table.

Number of pensioners (million) living in households with below 60 per cent. of median income (three survey year average, 2003-04 to 2005-06), after housing costs

	Number
London	0.2
East of England	0.2

Notes
1. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
4. The preferred measure of low income for pensioners is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income after housing costs. This is consistent with indicators that will be monitored as part of PSA Delivery Agreement 17.
5. Tables show numbers in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Personal Income: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in North Devon whose income is below 60 per cent. of median UK household income; and if he will make a statement. [183080]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government office region.

Social Fund: Birmingham

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was for *(a)* a decision on and *(b)* a review of social fund claims from the Birmingham office in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174667]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Reviews of Social Fund applications at the Birmingham office (the Independent Review Service for the Social Fund) are a matter for the Social Fund Commissioner, Sir Richard Tilt. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 February 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the average length of time for a decision on social fund applications in the most recent period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The average actual clearance times for discretionary social fund applications in Great Britain from April to December 2007 are given in the table.

Discretionary social fund applications in Great Britain from April to December 2007[1]

Award type	*Average Actual Clearance Time (working days)*
Community Care Grants	11.9
Crisis Loans[2]	1.7
Budgeting Loans	4.9

[1]. Numbers are based on applications cleared from April to December 2007, not on applications received during that period.
[2]. Figure includes Crisis Loans for items and living expenses.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of at least one benefit at the most recent date for which figures are available. [182549]

Mr. Plaskitt: The estimated number of people in the UK in receipt of at least one benefit including child benefit and state retirement pension is 22,400,000.

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Benefit receipt is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to mis-reporting.
3. Benefits include retirement pension and child benefit.

Source:
Family Resources Survey, United Kingdom 2005-06.

Social Security Benefits: Administration

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1557W, on social security benefits: administration, in what form information on the cost of administering each benefit is collected and collated by the Department. [178801]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not record the costs of administering benefits by benefit type; i.e. information on administering each benefit is not collected and collated by the Department.

However, total administration costs are analysed by Request for Resource (RfR) in the published Resource Accounts, currently split into the following RfR's for the 2006-07 Financial Year, together with the benefits administered:

	Benefit
RfR 1 (Children)	Child Maintenance
RfR 2 (Working Age)	Bereavement Allowance
	Bereavement Payments Lump Sum
	Incapacity Benefit
	Income Support
	Industrial Injuries
	Job Seeker's Allowance
	Maternity Allowance
	Severe Disablement Allowance
	Social Fund
RfR 3 (Pensioners)	65+ Age Related Payments
	70+ Age Related Payments
	70+ Payment
	Christmas Bonus
	Minimum Income Guarantee
	Pension Credit

	Benefit
	State Pension (Contributory) State Pension (Non-contributory) Winter Fuel Payments
RfR 4 (Disabled)	Attendance Allowance Carer's Allowance Disability Living Allowance Vaccine Damage Payments
RfR 5 (Corporate Services)	No direct benefits attributed to this RfR

The information contained in the table is collected and collated via departmental accounting systems.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error there have been in the administration of (i) income support, (ii) jobseeker's allowance and (iii) housing benefit in each quarter in the last 10 years, broken down by region. [174803]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available prior to 2001-02 and is not available by quarter.

The Department's measurement system for fraud and error does not estimate the number of cases of fraud or error over a given period. It does provide estimates of the average proportion and number of claims that are fraudulent or in error at any one time during a year.

Estimates at regional level have been produced for income support and jobseeker's allowance, and published as National Statistics from 2001-02 onwards. These estimates are reproduced in the following tables. These estimates are based on a sampling exercise, and are subject to a degree of statistical variation. At regional level the sample sizes are small, so the uncertainty around the estimates is relatively large.

Estimates for Housing Benefit have not been produced at regional level. Estimates at national level of the proportion of cases that are paid incorrectly through fraud and error since 2002-03 can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_apr05_mar06_new.xls

Estimates of the average number of incorrect cases in Income Support at any one time, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Government office region	*Fraud*	*Customer error*	*Official error*	*Total*
2001-02				
North East	6,000	6,000	8,000	20,000
North West	18,000	17,000	21,000	53,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	11,000	8,000	17,000	35,000
East Midlands	5,000	8,000	11,000	21,000
West Midlands	9,000	9,000	19,000	35,000
East	5,000	9,000	14,000	26,000
London	25,000	21,000	33,000	73,000
South East	16,000	12,000	22,000	45,000
South West	7,000	13,000	10,000	27,000
Wales	6,000	6,000	8,000	20,000
Scotland	18,000	17,000	21,000	53,000
2002-03				
North East	4,000	7,000	9,000	19,000
North West	17,000	16,000	28,000	59,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	13,000	8,000	18,000	38,000
East Midlands	5,000	8,000	10,000	22,000
West Midlands	6,000	11,000	16,000	30,000
East	5,000	10,000	11,000	24,000
London	23,000	16,000	47,000	81,000
South East	14,000	12,000	26,000	48,000
South West	6,000	10,000	10,000	25,000
Wales	7,000	4,000	11,000	22,000
Scotland	13,000	8,000	12,000	31,000
2003-04				
North East	5,000	5,000	12,000	21,000
North West	13,000	17,000	35,000	60,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,000	12,000	20,000	37,000
East Midlands	3,000	7,000	14,000	22,000
West Midlands	6,000	13,000	18,000	35,000
East	4,000	9,000	15,000	27,000
London	13,000	21,000	43,000	73,000
South East	15,000	13,000	25,000	49,000
South West	4,000	9,000	12,000	24,000
Wales	5,000	6,000	11,000	20,000
Scotland	10,000	12,000	19,000	39,000
2004-05				
North East	5,000	6,000	12,000	22,000
North West	10,000	18,000	29,000	54,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,000	8,000	20,000	33,000
East Midlands	2,000	8,000	13,000	20,000
West Midlands	6,000	13,000	23,000	41,000
East	3,000	10,000	19,000	30,000
London	11,000	19,000	48,000	74,000
South East	10,000	15,000	25,000	45,000
South West	3,000	8,000	15,000	24,000
Wales	5,000	7,000	14,000	25,000
Scotland	7,000	14,000	17,000	36,000
2005-06				
North East	4,000	7,000	7,000	17,000
North West	6,000	13,000	23,000	44,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,000	11,000	14,000	33,000
East Midlands	1,000	9,000	8,000	17,000
West Midlands	2,000	12,000	15,000	28,000
East	3,000	13,000	9,000	26,000
London	13,000	30,000	36,000	78,000
South East	7,000	15,000	22,000	44,000
South West	3,000	12,000	11,000	24,000
Wales	4,000	5,000	12,000	21,000
Scotland	5,000	14,000	11,000	29,000

Estimates of average numbers of incorrect cases in Jobseeker's Allowance at any one time

Government office region	*Fraud*	*Customer error*	*Official error*	*Total*
2001-02				
North East	3,000	1,000	2,000	6,000
North West	8,000	2,000	7,000	16,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,000	2,000	7,000	15,000
East Midlands	3,000	1,000	6,000	9,000
West Midlands	6,000	1,000	5,000	12,000
East	3,000	2,000	5,000	9,000
London	15,000	4,000	13,000	31,000
South East	5,000	1,000	4,000	10,000
South West	3,000	2,000	3,000	7,000
Wales	2,000	1,000	2,000	5,000
Scotland	6,000	1,000	5,000	12,000
2002-03				
North East	2,000	1,000	2,000	5,000
North West	5,000	3,000	7,000	14,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,000	2,000	4,000	8,000
East Midlands	3,000	1,000	4,000	8,000
West Midlands	5,000	2,000	4,000	11,000
East	3,000	2,000	4,000	9,000
London	10,000	2,000	17,000	28,000
South East	5,000	2,000	7,000	12,000
South West	2,000	2,000	5,000	8,000
Wales	2,000	1,000	2,000	5,000
Scotland	7,000	1,000	6,000	14,000
2003-04				
North East	3,000	1,000	3,000	6,000
North West	4,000	4,000	8,000	15,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,000	3,000	5,000	10,000
East Midlands	2,000	2,000	4,000	7,000
West Midlands	3,000	4,000	5,000	11,000
East	1,000	3,000	4,000	8,000
London	6,000	6,000	18,000	29,000
South East	4,000	3,000	8,000	14,000
South West	1,000	2,000	5,000	8,000
Wales	1,000	2,000	2,000	5,000
Scotland	4,000	3,000	6,000	13,000
2004-05				
North East	1,000	1,000	2,000	4,000
North West	2,000	3,000	4,000	9,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,000	2,000	4,000	7,000
East Midlands	0	2,000	2,000	4,000
West Midlands	1,000	3,000	3,000	7,000
East	1,000	2,000	4,000	6,000
London	4,000	6,000	14,000	22,000
South East	3,000	3,000	6,000	10,000
South West	1,000	1,000	2,000	4,000
Wales	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Scotland	2,000	3,000	4,000	9,000
2005-06				
North East	0	1,000	2,000	3,000
North West	4,000	2,000	5,000	9,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,000	1,000	3,000	7,000
East Midlands	0	1,000	3,000	4,000
West Midlands	1,000	3,000	4,000	6,000
East	1,000	1,000	3,000	5,000
London	3,000	2,000	7,000	11,000
South East	1,000	2,000	3,000	6,000
South West	1,000	1,000	3,000	5,000
Wales	1,000	0	2,000	3,000
Scotland	1,000	2,000	2,000	5,000

Notes:

1. The estimates are of the average number of cases that were incorrect at any point during the year. They are not estimates of the total number of individual cases affected during the year.
2. Estimates are of incorrectness, so include both overpayments and underpayments.
3. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000. An entry of zero indicates an estimate of less than 500.
4. There is some overlap between the fraud and error categories, as it is possible for example for an official to make an error on a case that is already fraudulent. This means that the customer error and official error estimates should not be summed to give an overall error estimate.
5. Income support estimates refer only to working age claimants.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department are taking to tackle benefit fraud by UK nationals abroad. [175330]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has in place, and is extending coverage of, a range of measures to address the risks of fraud by UK nationals abroad. These included acquisition of foreign death data, independent certification that overseas customers are still alive, location of DWP representatives overseas and joint collaboration agreements with other countries.

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of pensioners eligible for means tested support who did not claim their full entitlement in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181636]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates of take-up rates and the number of pensioners not claiming pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up". Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

State Retirement Pensions

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many errors were made in the payment of retirement pensions in the last 12 months; and in how many of those cases it was not possible to give an explanation of the error to the pensioner concerned. [180986]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Results from the most recent full year (2006-07) show that The Pension Service achieved 96.76 per cent. accuracy (excluding errors of less than £1.50 per week).

When amending a State Pension payment The Pension Service's standard practice is to issue a letter advising the customer that a new amount of benefit is due and when this change is due to take effect. Customers are also advised to contact The Pension Service if they have any questions about their benefit.

Tribunals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unfair dismissal employment tribunals his Department has been involved in in the last 10 years; what the grounds were for each case brought; in how many cases the employment tribunal found in favour of the former employee; and what action was taken by his Department to change its working practices as a result of such cases. [177965]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number and outcome of unfair dismissal cases is not recorded centrally and to collate it for the requested period prior to October 2005 would incur a disproportionate cost.

Since October 2005, the Department has been involved in 235 unfair dismissal cases of which the outcome of three has been an employment tribunal finding in favour of the claimant. Of those three cases two are the subject of ongoing appeals. In 34 cases the outcome has either not been recorded or, where the case is ongoing, has not been reached.

Information on the grounds of and the resulting changes in working practice resulting from each unfair dismissal case is not recorded centrally and to collate it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Winter Fuel Payments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of single *(a)* women and *(b)* men who will have reached the age of 60 after the qualifying week for winter fuel payment eligibility in 2007, but before 29 February 2008. [181389]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 January 2008]:* We estimate that 170,00 single women and 160,000 single men will have reached the age of 60 years after the end of the qualifying week for winter fuel payment eligibility in 2007 but before 29 February 2008.

Note:

Estimates are based on the Office for National Statistics' published '2006-based' population projections.

Wirral International Business Park

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of additional jobs resulting from the developments of *(a)* Wirral International Business Park and *(b)* the Croft Retail Park in Bromborough; and if he will make a statement. [181447]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 1 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of additional jobs resulting from the developments of (a) Wirral International Business Park, and the Croft Retail Park in Bromborough. (181447).

Unfortunately, the information requested is not available at this detailed level.

HEALTH

Antibiotics: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* posters and *(b)* leaflets are being produced (i) in total and (ii) per GP surgery for his Department's campaign on the unnecessary use of antibiotics to be launched in February 2008. [179124]

Ann Keen: The antibiotic campaign consists of one leaflet and three posters. We are publishing a total of 450,000 leaflets and 120,000 posters. 10 copies of the leaflet and one poster will be sent to each general practitioner practice along with an order form for further copies if required. Copies of the leaflet and posters will also be available from the Department's website.

Basildon Hospital: Clostridium

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of C. difficile were recorded in Basildon Hospital in each of the last two years; what proportion of patients admitted to Basildon Hospital this represents in each of those years; and how these figures compare with equivalent figures from other NHS hospitals in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England. [178843]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). This provides data on the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection. All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of *C. difficile* infection processed by their laboratories and the data are published at trust level.

Basildon hospital is part of the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the following table shows the number of *C. difficile* infection reported for patients aged 65 years and over in the trust compared to other trusts in Essex and the total number in England for the last two full years.

The proportion of patients admitted to trusts compared to the number of *C. difficile* cases is not available. However the table shows the rate per 1,000 bed-days for patients aged 65 and over for the last two years of figures available.

The rate published by the HPA uses the total number of nights spent in hospital by patients aged 65 years and over for the relevant time period to calculate a rate of *C. difficile* infection per 1,000 bed-days.

Trust	*January to December 2005*		*January to December 2006*	
	Number of C. difficile reports for patients 65 years	*Rate per 1,000 bed-days for patients 65 years*	*Number of C. difficile reports for patients 65 years*	*Rate per 1,000 bed-days for patients 65 years*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	470	3.32	545	3.85
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	328	2.33	295	2.09
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	268	2.12	277	2.19
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	369	2.43	352	2.32
England national total	51,829	2.23	55,620	2.38

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the number of *(a)* radiologists, *(b)* pathologists, *(c)* surgeons and *(d)* specialist nurses to support national bowel cancer screening programme objectives and delivery of the 18 week pathway. [178035]

Ann Keen: Service transformation, supported by the significant increase in the work force since 1997, new ways of working and productivity gains, will enable 18 weeks to be delivered and sustained.

Expansion of medical and nurse training has supported the planned expansion of the national health service work force which was part of the NHS Plan.

The number of consultants working in the relevant three specialties in 1997 and 2006 and the percentage change is shown in the following table:

Hospital and community health services: Medical and dental staff showing consultants working within specified speciality groups, as at 30 September each year

Number (headcount) and percentage

	1997	*2006*	*Change 1997-2006*	*Percentage change 1997-2006*
Pathology group	2,884	3,956	1,072	37.2
Of which:				
Consultant	1,838	2,416	578	31.4
Radiology group	2,064	3,204	1,140	55.2
Of which:				
Consultant	1,473	2,105	632	42.9
Surgical group	13,394	19,425	6,031	45.0
Of which:				
Consultant	4,094	6,129	2,035	49.7

Data on specialist nurses to support the national bowel screening programme are not collected centrally and commissioning of specialist nurses is driven by the local health care needs.

Cancer: Gastrointestinal System

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times from referral to treatment were for upper and lower gastrointestinal cancers, broken down by condition, in the latest period for which figures are available. [178037]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for specific cancer conditions are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment was introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter for which figures are available (July to September 2007) performance against this standard was 97.2 per cent.

Cannabis: Misuse

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider introducing measures to require the manufacturers of cigarette rolling papers to print health warnings on their products on the dangers of cannabis use. [184189]

Dawn Primarolo: Current legislation does not require the display of health warnings on cigarette rolling papers. Currently, health warnings are only required to be displayed on tobacco products, as defined in the Tobacco Products (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale) (Safety) Regulations 2002.

As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, the Department will consult on the next steps in tobacco control and the further regulation of tobacco products. This consultation will take place during spring 2008.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the roll out of the national screening programme for cardiovascular disease will be incremental with an initial focus on high risk groups; [178820]

(2) how much funding for the implementation of the national screening programme for cardiovascular disease has been allocated in each of the next three years; from what budget it will be drawn; and if he will make a statement; [178822]

(3) whether additional resources will be made available to support and treat those patients identified as high risk for cardiovascular disease following their screening by the new programme in England and Wales. [178823]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk programme. A departmental project is currently underway to assess the costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme. This would be focused on the shared risk factors for conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease and as such would use an assessment of risk based on a range of known predictive factors including age, gender, smoking status, body mass index, high blood pressure, and cholesterol and glucose, as appropriate.

This project will include estimating the amount of preventive work currently carried out by general practitioner surgeries and the impact of the introduction of a vascular screening programme.

The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme, including details of operational timescales for implementing the programme, are still the subject of developmental work.

Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust: Dental Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust for the provision of NHS dental services in 2007-08. [181695]

Ann Keen: The Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) received a net allocation of £18.923 million for the funding of primary dental services in 2007-08. In addition, the PCT receives the benefit of all national health service dental charge income paid by patients attending local practices to help meet the gross cost of commissioning services from dental providers.

PCTs are also able to apply to their strategic health authority for separate, non-recurrent supplementary allocations to meet the costs associated with any recently qualified dentists who join local practices as dental vocational trainees for an initial period of training and supervised clinical experience.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many enquiries were received by the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust on access to NHS dentists in each of the last three years. [181696]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally and may instead be available from the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

Cervical Cancer: Death

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women *(a)* under 25, *(b)* 25 to 35, *(c)* 35 to 50, *(d)* 50 to 60 and *(e)* over 60 years of age died from cervical cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [183762]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women (a) under 25, (b) 25 to 35, (c) 35 to 50, (d) 50 to 60 and (e) over 60 years of age died from cervical cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (183762)

The table below contains the number of deaths where the underlying cause was cervical cancer, by age, in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

Number of deaths from cervical cancer[1] by age group, England and Wales, 2002-2006[2]

	Under 25	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*All ages*
2002	5	37	188	173	600	1,003
2003	7	49	170	150	577	953
2004	9	44	167	168	563	951
2005	2	51	170	153	541	917
2006	4	52	168	132	475	831

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C53.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Clostridium: Screening

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department intends to bring forward proposals to screen all patients entering NHS hospitals in England for *Clostridium difficile*. [181022]

Ann Keen: We are introducing universal screening for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* for all elective patients by March 2009 and for all emergency patients as soon as possible over the next three years. This will reduce the likelihood of a patient developing a clinical infection or passing it on to others in hospital who may be vulnerable.

We have considered whether universal screening of patients for *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) is the best way forward for the national health service. However, the current clinical evidence does not suggest that universal screening would be clinically effective as universal screening would not identify the majority of patients who might be carrying *C. difficile* bacteria, and patients without symptoms are not considered to present an increased risk of infecting others. This is why we are targeting high risk patients for *C. difficile* screening. All over 65s in hospital with diarrhoea already should be screened for *C. difficile* as set out in current guidance. This will ensure the infection is identified quickly and appropriate measures are taken to treat the patient and minimise infection of other patients.

The measures for tackling health care associated infections such as *C. difficile* are set out in Health Protection Agency guidance, the 'Saving Lives' programme and 'Clean, safe care' strategy.

We will keep the clinical evidence for further *C. difficile* screening under review and will act quickly in response to new and emerging evidence.

Commercial Directorate: Operating Costs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs of running the Commercial Directorate since it was established. [182937]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The Department's Commercial Directorate was established in 2003-04. The direct running costs to 2007-08, which relate to civil servant pay and non-pay costs, are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	
2004-05	0.5
2005-06	1.0
2006-07	0.8
2007-08[1]	0.9
Total	3.2

[1] Forecast.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179468]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has taken steps, over a number of years, to encourage staff not to print off e-mails, and other documents, unnecessarily. In particular, the following actions have been taken:

> at staff sustainable development awareness events one of the major messages has been that staff should not print unless strictly necessary;
>
> over the past 12 months the Department has introduced a new managed print service where existing printers, photocopiers and fax machines have been replaced by multi-function devices. This has reduced the number of print devices by three-quarters. The ratio of staff to printers has reduced from 3:1 to an average of 10:1. The fact that most staff must now walk further to collect their printing is seen as a disincentive. Where printing is necessary the default on the new printers is duplex which reduces the amount of paper used. As computers are renewed we also have a policy to supply these with larger screens, to better enable staff to read their documents on screen;
>
> all staff in Information Services Directorate have an environmental strapline on their e-mails. Although this is changed regularly, previous straplines have reminded staff not to print unnecessarily. Other groups within the Department have adopted similar straplines; and
>
> the amount of waste paper generated in the Department has reduced from 522 tonnes in 2004-05 to 329 tonnes in 2006-07, a reduction of 37 per cent. This greatly exceeds the Government target to reduce overall waste arisings by 5 per cent. by 2010. While there are a number of factors that have influenced this figure, it does indicate that printing of ephemeral documents (which are destined for the waste bin) has reduced.

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will consider implementing a screening programme for type 1 diabetes in children; [183599]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to schools on managing children with type 1 diabetes; [183600]

(3) what information his Department provides for parents on the causes and symptoms of type 1 diabetes in children; [183601]

(4) how many children were diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in the years *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; [183602]

(5) what steps he is taking to include screening for type 1 diabetes in children in the health screening programme recently announced by the Prime Minister. [183603]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Caring for children and young people with diabetes is fundamentally different from providing services for adults. It is a complex process that must be focused firmly on the child or young person and their family and/or other carers, supported by the skills and experiences of a wide range of healthcare professionals.

It is not currently possible to screen for type 1 diabetes in children. The Department therefore has no plans to implement a screening programme for type 1 diabetes in children. The onset of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes develops quickly, and they usually require immediate medical attention.

The Prime Minister's announcement on 7 January 2008 outlined plans to develop a programme of vascular risk assessment, which includes diabetes. Proposals for this programme will be brought forward later in the year, but this will be a programme for adults.

The Department does not collect data about the number of children diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. However, the current estimate of prevalence in the United Kingdom is one per 700-1,000 children, yielding a total of population of people with type 1 diabetes aged 25 years in the UK of approximately 25,000.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", the report of the Children and Young People with Diabetes Working Group, which looked at ways to improve diabetes services for children and young people. This report includes guidance on the management and support of type 1 diabetes in children and young people. Parents can also access guidance about the causes and symptoms of type 1 diabetes from the Diabetes UK website at:

> www.diabetes.org.uk

and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at:

> www.jdrf.org.uk.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, in close liaison with the Department, has issued guidance for schools on the development of policies for the management and administration of pupils' medicines, and to help them put in place systems for supporting individual pupils with medical needs, including type 1 diabetes. The guidance is available at:

> http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/medical/

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 552W, on dietary supplements: EU law, whether the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has received responses from the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey to the letters it sent on 10 September 2007; and when a collective meeting with the representatives of these Governments is planned to take place. [184398]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has not received responses from the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey to the letters sent on the 10 September 2007 and no meetings have been arranged with the FSA.

Fluoride: Children

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice his Department has issued to *(a)* parents and *(b)* dentists on the prevention of dental fluorosis in children; [182407]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the causes of dental fluorosis in children, other than that of fluoride added to the water supply. [182409]

Ann Keen: Dental fluorosis is characterised by a flecking, or more rarely a mottling, of teeth, often only visible when teeth are dried. If severe, it may give some people concern about the appearance of their teeth. It does not, however, affect the extra resistance to dental decay provided by exposure to fluoride. It is often caused by very young children swallowing fluoride toothpaste unsupervised. When parents or dentists make inquiries, they are referred to advice contained in "Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence based toolkit for prevention", which was issued to all national health service general dental practices in November 2007. The guide, advises that

> "Children under 3 years should use no more than a smear of toothpaste .... And must not be permitted to eat or lick toothpaste from the tube".

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the prevalence of dental fluorosis in children under the age of 10 years. [182408]

Ann Keen: To date, experience of researching fluorosis shows that there are wide differences in subjective assessments even when they are made by dentists on dried teeth. We are therefore supporting a research project on the use of intra-oral cameras to assess the extent of fluorosis. If, as we expect, the research shows that the measurement of dental fluorosis can be standardised, we will undertake a further study of its prevalence and aesthetic impact.

Gastrointestinal System: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialist gastroenterology units there are *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each region of England; [178045]

(2) how many people in England have a gastrointestinal disease, broken down by condition; what plans he has for a National Service Framework for gastroenterology; and how many *(a)* gastroenterological consultants and *(b)* specialist gastroenterologist training posts there were in the national health service in England in each of the last five years. [178048]

Ann Keen: Data are not held centrally on specialist gastroenterology units. Data are not held in the form requested for people in England with gastrointestinal disease. The Department does not currently have plans for a national service framework for gastro-intestinal disease.

However, the following table sets out the medical staff within gastroenterology.

Hospital and community health services: medical staff within gastroenterology showing consultants and doctors on training and equivalents by grade: England at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All staff	1,343	1,374	1,552	1,447	1,538
Of which					
Consultant	599	638	674	669	639
Doctors in training and equivalents	585	581	732	675	772
Registrar Group[1]	367	356	407	396	457
Senior House Officer	140	151	222	188	163
Foundation year 2	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	44
House Officer	78	74	103	91	108

[1] The majority of staff within this grade are specialist registrars. These doctors are undertaking specialist training within their chosen specialty.

[2] Denotes not applicable.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of the Healthcare for London consultation for *(a)* events, *(b)* fees for producing the logos, names and other marketing materials, *(c)* other fees to consultants, *(d)* printing costs, *(e)* distribution costs, *(f)* staff costs and *(g)* other costs in each financial year. [182891]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally.

Proposals for changes to services are a matter for the national health service locally. The Department does not hold information on the detailed breakdown of Healthcare for London costs—this is available directly from NHS London.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this issue locally with NHS London.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost of treating coronary heart disease was to the NHS in the last year for which information is available. [181466]

Ann Keen: The estimated cost of treating coronary heart disease to the national health service in England in the last year for which information is available (2006-07) is £2.3 billion.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the proportion of the decline in mortality from coronary heart disease which is attributable to treatment of individuals at risk in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [181467]

Ann Keen: In 2004 the national health service's Health Development Agency published a briefing paper entitled "Relative contributions of changes in risk factors and treatment to the reduction in coronary heart disease mortality" which states that in the period 1981-2000, approximately 42 per cent. of the mortality decrease was attributable to medical and surgical treatments. This means that about 58 per cent. of the decline in mortality was attributable to the change in risk factors, with the largest proportion coming from a fall in smoking prevalence.

A copy of the briefing paper has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/documents/CHD_Briefing_nov_04.pdf

Hospital Infections

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital-acquired infections there were in each London hospital in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [179950]

Ann Keen: The steps being taken to reduce the incidents of health care associated infections are summarised in the written ministerial statement on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, that accompanies the launch of a new comprehensive strategy, 'Clean, Safe Care: Reducing infections and saving lives' to tackle health care associated infections and improve cleanliness in the national health service. A copy is available in the Library.

The strategy draws together recent initiatives and details new areas where the NHS should invest Government funding of £270 million per year by 2010-11. It also sets out where there are new national expectations and requirements, for example about the new national target for *Clostridium difficile* and the requirements for the deep cleaning every hospital by March 2008. It also outlines areas, such as investment in infection control nurses, pharmacists and isolation nurses, that NHS organisations should consider when developing their local plans.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of different cleaning products to combat healthcare-acquired infections since 1997. [182060]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health has commissioned work from University college London, examining the use of microfibre cloths and steam cleaning. The findings of this work were published in "An integrated approach to hospital cleaning: microfibre cloth and steam cleaning technology" and "Review of evidence: Microfibre cloth and steam cleaning technology". Copies of both reports following this work have been placed in the Library.

In addition, the Department established the Rapid Review Panel in 2004. The Panel is serviced by the Health Protection Agency and provides a prompt assessment of the potential of new and novel equipment, materials, and other products or protocols that may support the national health service in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital acquired infections.

Further information on the Rapid Review Panel and on the products it has considered to date can be found at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/rapid_review/default.htm

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the calculation was made of £40 million as a contingency fund against healthcare-associated infection claims. [181831]

Ann Keen: The £40 million is not a contingency fund.

For each notified claim, the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) (which handles clinical negligence claims on behalf of the national health service) applies recognised accounting treatment to record a 'provision' in its accounts. This is the likely value of the claim adjusted to take account of the likelihood of settling the claim at that value, adjusted for the likely timing of the settlement.

The £40 million is the gross value of the provisions held by the NHSLA relating to healthcare associated infection (HCAI) claims—the current view of the maximum financial exposure should all HCAI claims be settled today at the full value currently held in the claims files.

Liver Diseases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department since July 2000 on the causes of liver disease; when his Department last undertook a review of the causes of liver disease that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [177140]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department provides funding to the Medical Research Council (MRC) for research into human diseases. The MRC does not commission research, but welcomes proposals for research in all areas of its remit. The MRC spent the following amounts on research into liver disease (including hepatitis), including work on the cause of disease:

	£ million
2000-01	3.5
2001-02	3.9
2002-03	4.5
2003-04	5.1
2004-05	4.3
2005-06	5.0

Three of the Biomedical Research Centres formed and funded by the Department of Health, as part of the implementation of the Government's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health", propose to undertake research on the causes, diagnosis and treatment of liver disease. The Department of Health is in addition funding research on the pharmacogenetics of antimicrobial drug-induced liver injury.

In August 2007 the Department of Health commissioned a rapid review of the evidence relating to liver disease epidemiology, treatment and services, so as to help inform decisions on the possibility of developing a strategy for liver disease. The review, completed in December, included the primary causes of liver disease (alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity), and took into account both UK and international research.

Local Involvement Network: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the local involvement network to begin work in Oxfordshire; what the network's *(a)* budget for each of the next three years and *(b)* terms of reference will be; and what procedures there are for monitoring of the process of selection of the host organisation of the network. [179274]

Ann Keen: Work to establish a local involvement network (LINk) in the Oxfordshire local authority area is well under way and officers are currently consulting with existing patient and public involvement forums, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders on both the Terms of Reference for the LINk and the detail of the service specification for the LINk host organisation. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February.

Oxfordshire county council is being allocated the sum of £222,000 in 2008-09 for the establishment of its LINk, with indicative figures of £223,000 for 2009-10 and £223,000 for 2010-11.

Those involved in the LINk, be they members of the local patient and public involvement forums or other key stakeholders, will be fully involved in agreeing the terms of reference, selecting the host organisation, and monitoring the performance of the host.

It is anticipated that a service specification will be put out to tender in early March, with a host organisation to be selected in May and the LINk being formally established by September.

Local Involvement Networks

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to provide a financial loss allowance for members of local involvement networks; [182777]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that Local Involvement Networks (LINks) members are paid reasonable expenses by the host body when they undertake activities on behalf of a LINk. [183012]

Ann Keen: Patient and public involvement is key to developing and delivering responsive and accountable health and social care services. For effective involvement, people need to feel supported and that their contribution has been valued. This can be done in a number of ways, including participants being thanked and their contribution acknowledged.

It will be for each Local Involvement Network (LINk) to determine its own policy regarding payment and reimbursement. However, we will remind LINks and host organisations that the Department of Health's 'Reward and Recognition: The Principles and Practice of Service User Payment and Reimbursement in Health and Social Care, A Guide for Service Providers, Service Users and Carers' document provides a useful guide for service providers, users and carers on the principles and practice of service user payment and reimbursement in health and social care. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4138523

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that local involvement networks are funded to establish regional and national networks to monitor *(a)* cancer networks, *(b)* mental health services and *(c)* ambulance services. [182901]

Ann Keen: While local involvement networks (LINks) will be independent and will have the power to develop their own priorities and agendas, they will need to develop relationships with a number of stakeholders to fulfil their statutory role effectively. In certain circumstances, LINks may want to work in partnership to monitor services provided by, for example, cancer networks, mental health services or ambulance trusts, across more than one local authority boundary. LINks may also wish to work together in regional groups, or even nationally to share experience and findings. There is nothing to prevent LINks using some of their funding to establish local, regional or national networks if they so wish.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure Local Involvement Networks (LINks) members are provided with indemnity by his Department in respect of their reasonable activities on behalf of a LINk. [183011]

Ann Keen: It will be for local authorities to determine their own policies regarding local involvement networks (LINks) and indemnity. Authorities may choose to indemnify certain LINks' members directly or stipulate that host organisations must make arrangements to do so as part of their LINks' contracts.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts in England which have adopted the latest interim guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on treatment for patients with wet eye age-related macular degeneration. [184206]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) that have adopted the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE'S) draft guidance on Lucentis and Macugen for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. The Government issued good practice guidance to the national health service in December 2006 that reiterated the message that, in the absence of final NICE guidance, primary care trusts should continue to make local arrangements for the introduction of new technologies. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence.

NICE is currently appraising Lucentis and Macugen as treatments for age-related macular degeneration. NICE published a second appraisal consultation document on 14 December 2007. The consultation closed on 14 January 2008 and final guidance is expected in June.

Mental Health Services: Adult Education

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the preventative effects in relation to mental health of promoting mental activity through adult education courses; and if he will make a statement. [179902]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Discussions have taken place at a ministerial level with a wide range of Departments and we will continue to work closely with ministerial colleagues to ensure that people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in work, education and society as a whole. We want to raise people's aspirations and significantly broaden participation, progression and achievement in learning by creating the best learning offer possible and enabling individuals and communities to improve and prosper.

We recognise the many wider benefits of participation in learning and its vital contribution to personal health and well-being, community involvement and quality of life, especially as people age. Learning helps people to fulfil themselves as active citizens and as members of their families and communities. People who keep mentally and physically active not only live longer but live happier and more fulfilled lives and pursuing learning can play a real part in this. Our Skills and Skills for Life Strategies, the Employability Skills Programme and projects like Skilled for Health will ensure the continuing availability of a wide range of learning opportunities in every area for adult learners, including older people. In addition, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, launched a consultation on informal adult learning on 15 January 2008 which will look specifically at improving synergy across informal adult learning funded by all Government Departments.

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of cases of MRSA recorded in NHS hospitals was in 2007; and how many such cases were recorded at the University Hospital of North Durham in the same period. [178713]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 30 January 2008]*: The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). This provides data on the number of reports of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream (bacteraemia) infections. All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of MRSA bacteraemia infection processed by their laboratories and the data are published at trust level.

MRSA bacteraemia data are currently available for the first three quarters of 2007 only (January to September). During these nine months, 3,823 episodes of MRSA bacteraemia were reported by acute NHS trusts in England.

University Hospital of North Durham is part of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, which reported 34 episodes of MRSA bacteraemia between January and September 2007.

The HPA does not publish average counts for comparative purposes, as this does not take account of differences between trusts in terms of factors such as size and case mix. National and trust rates are published which allow more valid comparison by taking account of variations in levels of activity.

During the nine-month period January 2007-September 2007, the MRSA bacteraemia rate at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust was 1.45 cases per 10,000 bed-days, compared to a national rate of 1.34 cases per 10,000 bed-days.

Negligence: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* claims and *(b)* settlements for clinical negligence (i) were made in each of the last three years and (ii) have been made in 2007-08 for cases arising from (A) Barnet and Chase Farm, (B) Royal Free and (C) Northwick Park hospitals; and how much compensation was paid by each hospital in each year. [179054]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following four tables. The National Health Service Litigation Authority supplied the data.

Number of clinical negligence claims received by the NHS Litigation Authority 2004-05 to 2007-08 as at 31 December 2007 for specified trusts

	NHS litigation authority notification year				
Trust name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	39	31	30	20	120
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	49	45	36	25	155
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	25	20	30	21	96
Total	113	96	96	66	371

Number of clinical negligence claims settled 2004-05 to 2007-08 as at 31 December 2007 for specified trusts

	Settlement year				
Trust name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	36	41	32	23	132
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	42	37	42	32	153
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	28	30	20	21	99
Total	106	108	94	76	384

Number of clinical negligence claims settled with damages 2004-05 to 2007-08 as at 31 December 2007 for specified trusts

	Settlement year				
Trust name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	23	25	19	15	82
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	30	22	28	24	104
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	17	20	12	13	62
Total	70	67	59	52	248

Clinical negligence payments for specified trusts 2004-05 to 2007-08 as at 31 December 2007 by year of payment

Trust name	*Payment year*	*Damages*	*Defence costs*	*Claimant costs*	*Total*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2004-05	3,447,834	391,034	1,222,274	5,061,142
	2005-06	2,153,553	402,769	296,592	2,852,914
	2006-07	1,766,719	520,499	924,756	3,211,973
	2007-08	1,517,518	157,136	730,610	2,405,264
	Total	8,885,624	1,471,438	3,174,231	13,531,293
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	2004-05	1,419,276	353,864	1,367,983	3,141,123
	2005-06	1,188,597	300,782	259,845	1,749,224
	2006-07	3,784,051	255,398	635,811	4,675,260
	2007-08	1,147,351	177,009	402,128	1,726,488
	Total	7,539,275	1,087,053	2,665,767	11,292,095
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	2004-05	1,729,388	518,411	240,671	2,488,470
	2005-06	1,272,601	353,396	907,132	2,533,129
	2006-07	1,064,319	170,952	852,721	2,087,992
	2007-08	1,887,016	231,123	304,736	2,422,875
	Total	5,953,324	1,273,882	2,305,259	9,532,465

Notes:

1. The NHS Litigation Authority holds data at a trust level rather than hospital level. Data are therefore provided for the whole trust rather than for an individual hospital as requested.
2. The claims received refer to the year in which a claim was received and not the year the incident occurred.
3. Additional data have been provided to include not just the number of claims settled, but also the number of claims settled with damages.
4. The number of claims in a particular year for a trust will not necessarily be the same as the number of claims settled in the same year as claims can take a number of years to settle.

NHS: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date each local NHS trust will *(a)* receive the funding to recruit two additional infection control nurses and one additional antimicrobial pharmacist and *(b)* be expected to have these additional staff in post. [179132]

Ann Keen: The £5 million additional funding is allocated to primary care trusts for 2008-09 and will enable each hospital trust to employ two infection control nurses, two isolation nurses and an antimicrobial pharmacist. It is up to the trust to decide on actual staff numbers in light of their specific local hygiene and infection needs and existing staff levels.

NHS: National Working Groups

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects national working groups to be established under the NHS Next Stage Review, as described on page 2 of Lord Darzi's letter to stakeholders, dated 20 November 2007. [175028]

Ann Keen: The memberships and terms of reference of the national working groups are available on the 'Our NHS, Our Future' website:

www.nhs.uk/ournhs

NHS: Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the re-imbursement of home-to-work travel for community based staff who use personal cars as their private and work transport. [182856]

Ann Keen: Community-based staff are employed by the national health service, general practitioner practices and social care providers including local authorities, voluntary and private sector organisations. Reimbursement for home to work travel is a matter for employers. However, for those employed by the NHS on Agenda for Change contracts, the current policy can be found in the "Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook" which is available in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to remedy problems in administering the payment of travel expenses to community based health staff; and if he will make a statement. [182857]

Ann Keen: Community-based health staff are employed by the national health service and general practitioner practices. We are not aware of any problems in administering the payment of travel expenses to community-based health staff, which is a matter between employee and employer.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidences there were of NHS staff being paid late due to problems with the payroll system in each of the last three financial years. [182858]

Ann Keen: Details of the number of incidences of national health service staff being paid late due to problems with the payroll system are not collected centrally.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were made by NHS staff about problems with the NHS payroll system in each of the last three financial years. [182859]

Ann Keen: Any complaints made by national health service staff about problems with the NHS payroll system is a local matter between employee, employer and their payroll provider and not collected centrally.

Nurses: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many infection control nurses were employed in the NHS in England in each financial year since 1997-98. [179131]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify the number of infection control nurses from the rest of the nursing workforce.

Infection control nurses (ICN) should be registered nurses and are usually the only full-time members of the infection control team with full-time responsibility for infection control. ICN staffing levels are a matter for local determination.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set for organ donation; and what performance has been against those targets in the last period for which figures are available. [181834]

Ann Keen: The Government have not set any formal performance targets in relation to organ donation.

The Government have, however, recently accepted a number of recommendations from the Organ Donation Taskforce, which the Taskforce believe will see organ donation rates rise by 50 per cent. within five years.

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the supply of donated organs; whether any discussions have taken place on creating a system of presumed consent; and if he will make a statement. [182744]

Ann Keen: In 2006, the Organ Donation Taskforce was convened to identify barriers to organ donation, analyse factors militating against organ donation and make recommendations for increasing donation rates within existing legal frameworks. The Taskforce's report "Organs for Transplants: A report from the Organ Donation Taskforce" was published on 16 January 2008 and contains a number of major recommendations designed to strengthen the infrastructure for organ donation and transplantation. The Government have accepted the recommendations, in full, and implementation is already under way. Copies of the Taskforce's report are available in the Library.

The Taskforce has now been asked to consider the implications of changing to a system of presumed consent for organ donation in the United Kingdom, including the practical, clinical, ethical, legal and societal issues. The Taskforce has established expert working groups to advise on these issues and will report initial findings to Ministers in the summer.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what changes have been made to the list of medical exemptions which allow patients fee free prescriptions after his Department's recent review; [183784]

(2) when the last time was that his Department made changes to the list of medical exemptions which allow patients free prescriptions. [183785]

Dawn Primarolo: The medical conditions which grant entitlement to free prescriptions, in England, through medical exemption certificates have not changed since their introduction in 1968.

The Government's review of prescription charges will be inviting views shortly on options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

Radiotherapy: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which areas will not be able to meet the December 2008 deadline for extending the 31-day standard to radiotherapy treatment as described in paragraph 4.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175128]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy (paragraph 4.8) set a deadline for extension of the 31-day standard of December 2008 for chemotherapy and surgery. The deadline for extension of the 31-day standard for radiotherapy is December 2010. This is in recognition of the length of time needed to increase radiotherapy capacity, for example building bunkers and purchasing and installing machinery. At present, we have monitoring systems only to capture achievement against the 31-day standard for first treatments, as this is the current standard. We do not currently have data for second and subsequent treatments but we are developing systems which will allow the capture of information on achievement of the standard for radiotherapy by area before the achievement deadline.

Transplant Surgery: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department received concerning mortality rates for patients following *(a)* lung transplant, *(b)* heart transplant and *(c)* heart and lung transplant in 2006; and how many it has received in 2007 in each case. [172448]

Ann Keen: The Department has received two letters in 2006 and one letter in 2007 concerning mortality rates for patients following heart and lung transplants.

Transplant Surgery: Kidneys

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for liver transplant operations in *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust and *(b)* London NHS trusts. [167292]

Ann Keen: The average waiting time for a liver transplant is shown in the following table:

Primary care trust	*Number in analysis*	*Median waiting time (days)*
Barking and Dagenham; Havering; Redbridge	68	49.5
All in London strategic health authority	998	57.5

Note:
These figures are based on actual liver only transplants, multi-organ transplants e.g. liver/kidney, are not included. They are all first graft, elective transplants, super-urgent cases are not included.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Grants

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many grants have been awarded under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme for each month since April 2007; and what has been the total value of grants awarded in each month. [181127]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* There have been 2,289 grant awards totalling £16,422,135 since April 2007, with the breakdown by phase and funding stream as shown in the following tables:

Phase 1

Householders

2007	*Number*	*Amount (£)*
April	0	0.00
May	301	320,770.01
June	295	275,202.49
July	242	229,978.76
August	203	166,705.40
September	213	182,713.00
October	194	175,743.00
November	198	189,345.00
December	120	125,236.00

Communities

2007	*Number*	*Amount (£)*
April	5	97,060.14
May	8	132,135.00
June	1	25,255.50
July	2	24,699.00

Stream 2A

2007	*Number*	*Amount (£)*
May	47	1,085,875
August	27	659,860
December	86	1,959,397

Stream 2B

2007	*Number*	*Amount (£)*
May	6	2,270,466
August	5	911,706
October	10	1,380,493

Phase 2

Public sector and charity organisations

2007	*Number*	*Amount (£)*
April	20	439,016.45
May	42	597,044.35
June	29	646,441.46
July	53	995,822.04
August	32	194,588.13
September	61	598,444.76
October	67	901,166.61
November	38	802,235.47
December	36	581,897.13

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of current planning procedures in ensuring mobile telephone operators demonstrate that they have fully considered all options for a proposed new base station. [183076]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications makes clear that applicants for new masts should provide evidence that they have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure and that such evidence should accompany any prior approval or planning application made to the local planning authority.

The Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development sets out the supplementary information that the operators provide to accompany applications for planning permission and prior approval under part 24 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). The supplementary information that is routinely submitted with applications includes a list of the alternative sites considered during the site selection process and the reasons for not choosing them. Local planning authorities can assess the adequacy of this information when determining the relevant application.

We are currently reviewing the planning procedures relating to applications for new base stations and are considering the effectiveness of the processes set out above as part of the review.

Biofuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* location and *(b)* production volume is of each biodiesel (i) production and (ii) storage plant in England. [179240]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold precise information on the location and volume of biodiesel production and storage facilities in England. In 2006, it has been estimated there were around 1,400 facilities in operation in the UK, but most of these were relatively small in scale, producing less than 5,000 litres each per year.

Further information on the UK road transport biofuels market was published in the BERR Energy Trends publication for December 2007 (see pages 45-48):

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43304.pdf

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates his Department has made of *(a)* actual and *(b)* required UK capacity for the production of biodiesel in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [179243]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), due to be introduced in April 2008, will significantly increase demand for biofuels in the UK. A number of planned new biodiesel production facilities have been announced and, when on stream, will provide a significant increase in UK production capacity.

The Department does not have precise information on actual and required capacity for the production of biodiesel in each of the next three years. UK biofuel producers will continue to compete with overseas producers to supply the UK market.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the UK production capacity for biodiesel was in each of the last five years. [179244]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not hold precise information on biodiesel production capacity in the UK.

A feature on the UK road transport biofuels market was published in the BERR Energy Trends publication for December 2007 (see pages 45-48):

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43304.pdf

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many citizens advice bureaux have closed permanently in each of the last 10 years. [180389]

Mr. Thomas: This information is not available in the exact format requested. However, Citizens Advice have provided the following information.

The total number of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in membership of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales has reduced from 699 in 1998 to 428 in 2008. However, in the vast majority of cases this is as a result of bureau mergers and not closures. Citizens Advice—the national charity—works in partnership with its members and funders to merge legal entities where there is a strong business case to do so. The number of outlets from which CAB advice is available continues to grow and currently stands at approximately 3,300. Permanent closure of Citizens Advice Bureaux is extremely rare and in the past decade the only areas where services have been terminated, either by the funder or by Citizens Advice, are : London borough of Ealing, London borough of Islington, Lytham St. Annes, Oadby and Wigston, and Old Swan.

Competition

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what *(a)* powers and *(b)* discretion he has to disagree with the findings of the Competition Commission on (i) competition issues, (ii) the creation of merger situations, (iii) media plurality issues and (iv) public interest issues; [180283]

(2) what *(a)* powers and *(b)* discretion he has to decide on different actions from those proposed by the Competition Commission (i) generally and (ii) in respect of divestment of cross-media shareholdings. [180284]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: In cases where the Secretary of State intervenes in a merger on public interest grounds under section 42 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) and subsequently makes a reference to the Competition Commission under section 45 of the Act on the grounds that the merger gives rise to both competition and public interest issues, the Competition Commission prepares a report in accordance with section 50 of the Act which is submitted to the Secretary of State. This report contains the Competition Commission's decisions on the questions set out in section 47 of the Act. These are:

> (a) whether a relevant merger situation has been created;
>
> (b) whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market of the United Kingdom;
>
> (c) whether, taking account only of any substantial lessening of competition and any admissible public interest consideration, that situation operates, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

On receipt of such a report, the Secretary of State must take the decisions provided for in sections 54 and 55 of the Act:

> (a) whether to make no finding at all in the case on the basis that the public interest consideration specified in the intervention notice is not relevant to a consideration of the merger situation concerned;
>
> (b) whether to make an adverse public interest finding (noting that Section 45(6) of the Act provides that any anti-competitive outcome shall be treated as being adverse to the public interest unless it is justified by one or more than one public interest consideration which is relevant); and

> (c) what action to take to remedy, mitigate or prevent any of the effects adverse to the public interest which may have resulted from the relevant merger situation.

In reaching his decisions under section 54 of the Act, the Secretary of State is required, under section 54(7)(a) of the Act, to accept the decisions of the Competition Commission as to whether a relevant merger situation has been created and whether it results in an anti-competitive outcome. In reaching his decisions under section 55 of the Act on remedies, the Secretary of State is required, under section 55(3) of the Act, to have particular regard to the report of the Competition Commission.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* new build and *(b)* refurbishment projects of a value of under £250,000 for which his Department was responsible took place in 2005-06; and how many of those projects were subject to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. [176726]

Mr. Thomas: My Department carried out five refurbishment projects up to a value of £250,000 during the 2005-06 financial year. No new builds were carried out and therefore these projects were not subject to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* new build and *(b)* re-furbishment projects for which his Department was responsible took place in 2005-06 up to a budget of £5 million; and how many of those projects were subject to a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment. [176777]

Mr. Thomas: My Department carried out six refurbishment projects up to a value of £5 million during the 2005-06 financial year. No new builds were carried out and therefore these projects were not subject to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181842]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 my Department has made progress in energy efficiencies by reducing the size of the property estate space by 46 per cent. with a decrease of 11.2 per cent. in energy consumption.

BERR will continue to make energy efficiencies and improvements during 2008-09.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165105]

Mr. Thomas: BERR was created in June 2007 following machinery of government changes. BERR complies with age legislation introduced on 1 October 2006 and does not ask people to disclose their age when they apply for a post. However, after selection every new starter completes a personal data form which includes an age field. This information is recorded in the BERR personnel management information system.

The number of permanent staff joining BERR since its creation broken down into age groups is as follows:

Age	*Permanent staff*
30 to 39	4
40 to 49	6
50 to 59	1
60 to 69	0
Total	11

Data on those appointed to temporary posts are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179912]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department, UK Trade and Investment or Companies House and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Insolvency Service have spent £14,489 in the last five years on a limited number of promotional products with Insolvency Services branding, including banner stands, pens, clocks, mugs and USB memory sticks.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172325]

Mr. Thomas: There is no express provision in the Department's standard terms and conditions of purchase prohibiting the assignment of debt. The Department's standard terms and conditions of purchase do however include a prohibition on the contractor giving, bargaining, selling, assigning, subcontracting or otherwise disposing of the contract or any part thereof without the previous agreement in writing of the Department. Accordingly a contractor may not assign its debts under the contract without such approval from the Department. This reflects the OGC recommended provision in this regard.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on foreign travel for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in each of the last 10 years. [177211]

Mr. Thomas: The total amount spent on foreign travel by BERR and its predecessor, the DTI, in each of the last 10 years was:

	£
1998-99	5,019,971
1999-2000	5,291,063
2000-01	5,470,024
2001-02	4,912,785
2002-03	5,583,825
2003-04	4,260,257
2004-05	5,483,903
2005-06	5,601,629
2006-07	6,295,501
April 2007 to November 2007	1,752,867

The Department does not separately record the travel undertaken by Ministers from that of officials—to provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

These figures include travel, accommodation and incidental costs associated with travel.

Economic Agreements

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects transitional agreements to be available to countries not ready to sign up for an economic partnership agreement by 1 January 2008. [175733]

Mr. Thomas: 35 countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group signed up to an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) before the end of 2007. These countries now receive duty free quota free access for their products into the EU. Of the countries which did not agree an EPA, 32 are classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which makes them eligible for the Everything But Arms scheme (EBA) which provides for duty free access into the EU on all products except for arms. 10 other countries can utilise the Generalised System of Preferences scheme (GSP) which is available to all developing countries and provides for a reduction in the standard rate of duty for products entering the EU. These schemes were already in existence and so these countries have been able to utilise them since the beginning of this year.

The UK continues to work with the European Commission and ACP Governments to ensure that these agreements benefit regional integration and deliver for development.

Electricity Generation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many tonnes of carbon dioxide each electricity company has been granted a permit to emit in each year from 2008 to 2012. [181131]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: Emissions allowances are allocated on the basis of installations rather than companies. A list of the number of EU Emissions Trading Scheme allowances issued to each installation in the UK has been published on the DEFRA website at:

http ://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/trading/eu/operators/phase-2.htm

Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of the energy review process, excluding legal costs incurred during the judicial review. [175680]

Malcolm Wicks: The total cost of the Energy Review process was approximately £2 million (excluding legal costs incurred during the judicial review).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on external consultancies in the preparation of *(a)* energy review, Our Energy Challenge, The Energy Challenge and *(b)* Meeting the Energy Challenge. [175681]

Malcolm Wicks: The total cost of external consultants involved in the Energy Review process was approximately £1.8 million.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the costs were of printing Our Energy Challenge, The Energy Challenge; and how many copies were printed. [175682]

Malcolm Wicks: The total cost of producing the Energy Review consultation document "Our Energy Challenge", and the Energy Review report "The Energy Challenge" was approximately £104,000. This figure covers charges for typesetting and printing both documents.

2,600 copies of the Energy Review consultation document "Our Energy Challenge" were printed, and 2,800 copies of the Energy Review report "The Energy Challenge".

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the costs were of printing Meeting the Energy Challenge; and how many copies were printed. [175683]

Malcolm Wicks: The total cost of producing the Energy White Paper "Meeting the Energy Challenge" was approximately £112,000. This figure covers charges for typesetting and printing.

4,000 copies of the Energy White Paper were printed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which external consultants were used by his Department and its predecessor in the preparation of the energy review, Our Energy Challenge, The Energy Challenge and Meeting the Energy Challenge. [175684]

Malcolm Wicks: Consultants appointed as specialist advisers to the Energy Review were: academics from Imperial College London and Manchester University; AEA Technology Environment; Deloitte; E4Tech; Econnect; Ernst and Young; Global Insight; Poyry Energy (previously called Ilex); Jackson Consulting; Jade Energy Ltd., Morgan Stanley; Nera Economic Consulting, Oxera Consulting; Oxford Economic Forecasting, Redpoint Energy, Wade, Wood McKenzie.

Energy and Climate Security Panel

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings of his Department's Energy and Climate Security Panel have been held since its inception; which expert seminars have been organised to date on the advice of the panel; and what the URL for the panel's website is. [183861]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy and Climate Security Panel held its inaugural dinner in September 2007.

We will be holding the first expert seminar on 'What are the key risks in the global gas and oil markets to 2030' in February 2008. A further expert seminar on 'Renewable Energy Strategy' is planned for late spring 2008.

Background information on the Panel and its members can be found on our website at:

http://www.berrr.gov.uk/energy/policy-strategy/advisory-panel/page41232.html

Notes of panel and seminar meetings will also be posted on this website.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce energy costs for vulnerable people in the community; and if he will make a statement. [183328]

Malcolm Wicks: Action to reduce energy costs cuts across several Departments. The Government have a package of measures in place to support vulnerable households to reduce energy costs. We have announced that spend on energy efficiency measures for those on low incomes for the period 2008 to 2011 will be in excess of £2.3 billion.

In addition to this, my Department has promoted measures to reduce energy costs for those not connected to the mains gas network. In partnership with the regional development agencies in north-east England and Yorkshire and Humberside, we have set up two demonstration programmes to provide mains gas and renewable technologies to deprived communities outside the mains gas network. We have also worked with Ofgem to incentivise the large gas distribution networks to provide mains gas connections to deprived communities from April 2008.

In the Energy White Paper we made it clear that we expected energy suppliers to have a proportionate programme of assistance in place for vulnerable customers. Energy companies have responded and have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers from £40 million to £56 million this winter.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress is being made on the Ofcom review into utility bill charges for people who do not pay by direct debit. [183410]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Environmental Industries Sector Unit: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by UK Trade and Investment's Environmental Industries Sector Unit in each year since 2005. [182341]

Mr. Thomas: The Environmental Industries Sector Unit (EISU) budgeted the following for each year since 2005 in support of the UK environment sector overseas:

	£
2005-06	1,078,000
2006-07	1,118,000
2007-08	[1]882,000

[1] Forecast outturn

However, actual spend on the sector in each year since 2005 were as follows:

	£
2005-06	1,141,000
2006-07	1,149,000
2007-08	[1]882,000

[1] Forecast outturn

Exports: Environment Protection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Government agencies have provided support for exports from UK-based environmental industries in each year since 2005; what the budget for this work was for each agency in each year; and if he will make a statement. [182340]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government organisation that supports companies in the UK doing business internationally and overseas enterprises seeking to set up or expand in the UK. It brings together the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Environmental Industries Sector Unit (EISU) is a Government unit, operating within the Sector Group of UKTI, with responsibility for promoting the UK environmental industry overseas.

EISU budget from 2005 for the environment sector were as follows:

	£
2005-06	1,078,000
2006-07	1,118,000
2007-08	882,000

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in settlements with a population of 10,000 or less in England were in fuel poverty in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [183519]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Statistics Definition of rurality states that an area is defined as urban if it has a population greater than 10,000. Areas with a population of less than 10,000 are divided into "Town and fringe" and "Village, hamlet or isolated dwelling". A breakdown of fuel poverty at this level is available in the "Fuel Poverty 2005—Detailed Tables" (http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf). This shows that in 2005 there were approximately 288,000 fuel poor households in a "Village, hamlet or isolated dwelling" and 146,000 fuel poor households defined as being part of a "Town and fringe". This totals to approximately 434,000 households in fuel poverty in settlements of less than 10,000.

Fuel Poverty: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in *(a)* Cheltenham and *(b)* each of the Gloucestershire constituencies which were in fuel poverty in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [183015]

Malcolm Wicks: Over the last 10 years, sub-national estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/). In 2003, there were around 2,800 households in Cheltenham living in fuel poverty. The following table shows estimated fuel poverty levels for each local authority in Gloucestershire in 2003:

Local authority name	Estimate of number of fuel poor households (2003)
Cheltenham	2,800
Cotswold	2,100
Forest of Dean	2,200
Gloucester	2,900
South Gloucestershire	5,700
Stroud	2,700
Tewkesbury	1,900
Total	20,300

Imports: Biofuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what volume of biodiesel feedstocks *(a)* was imported into the UK in each of the last five years and *(b)* he estimates will be imported into the UK in each of the next five years. [179241]

Malcolm Wicks: Biodiesel is derived from vegetable or animal oils, which are also used for a variety of other purposes, and is also available for import as a blend with conventional diesel fuel. The Department does not hold information on the volume of biodiesel feedstocks imported into the UK in each of the last five years, nor does the Department have estimates of quantities likely to be imported in each of the next five years.

When the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) comes into effect in April 2008, transport fuel suppliers will be required to report on a monthly basis the feedstock from which their biofuels were produced and its country of origin.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174946]

Mr. Thomas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Libraries of the House.

News Corporation: ITV

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* he and *(b)* members of his Department have been approached by representatives of (i) BSkyB, (i) News International and (iii) any other News Corporation controlled company about BSkyB's shareholding in ITV. [179311]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1631W.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what definition his Department uses of remote in the context of paragraph 3.58 of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, Cm 7296. [180997]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's policy on waste and decommissioning for new nuclear power stations is designed to ensure that operators make adequate arrangements to cover the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management and disposal costs.

In the past the Government have found themselves called upon to cover the costs of decommissioning and waste management and disposal where nuclear power station operators have been unable to do so. The mechanism set out by the Government in the Energy Bill aim to mitigate in so far as possible against this risk for any new power stations that are built.

Paragraph 3.58 of the White Paper makes clear that the financing arrangements put in place by a nuclear operator must demonstrate that the risk of Government being called upon in this way is minimised. The operator must do this by ensuring that in addition to the accruing fund, additional financial safeguard mechanisms are in place to deal with a range of challenging scenarios. However, paragraph 3.58 recognises that in extreme circumstances the Government may be called upon to meet the costs of ensuring the protection of the public and the environment.

Government intend to publish draft guidance for public consultation in February which will give further information on what would constitute acceptable proposals for securely meeting decommissioning and waste management and disposal costs.

Packaging

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 64W, on packaging, when he plans to publish his Department's decision on private prosecutions in relation to copycat packaging as part of his Department's implementation of the unfair commercial practices directive. [176040]

Mr. Thomas: I intend to publish Government's Response to the May 2007 consultation on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) implementing the unfair commercial practices directive shortly. This will say that the Government do not propose to allow businesses to enforce the regulations, but this position will be kept under review and will be formally reviewed three years after the regulations come into force.

The Office of Fair Trading and Trading Standards Services will have a duty to enforce the regulations. The Government believe that these enforcement arrangements suffice to adequately enforce the CPRs, including in relation to misleading copycat packaging design. OFT and trading standards services will have to act in a manner consistent with their duty to enforce the regulations. Indeed the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property notes that in this context the Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services have said that once the UCPD is in place they will act on behalf of consumers by pursuing businesses who act improperly.

Public Telephones: Planning Permission

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many planning applications for new public telephone boxes were submitted to local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by local authority; how many boxes were proposed in such applications; how many applications were successful; and how many boxes were proposed in such successful applications. [182202]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning application topics.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what alternative provision will be made for the supply of energy needed to meet targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target for total primary energy in circumstances where a shortfall may be caused by insufficient wind speed to supply usable power by means of wind generation. [175777]

Malcolm Wicks: In the summer, the Government will launch a full consultation on what more we should do to increase renewable energy use to meet our share of the EU 2020 renewables target. This will consider a range of issues including the role of wind power and other technologies.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultations his Department has undertaken on the operation of the renewables obligation. [183918]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been nine consultations undertaken on the operation of the renewable obligation in England and Wales since its introduction:

New and Renewable Energy: Prospects for the 21st Century: The Renewables Obligation Preliminary Consultation—October 2000;

New and Renewable Energy: Prospects for the 21st Century: The Renewables Obligation Statutory Consultation—August 2001;

New and Renewable Energy: Prospects for the 21st Century: The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2003 Statutory Consultation—August 2003;

New and Renewable Energy: Prospects for the 21st Century: The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2003 Statutory Consultation on Late Payments—August 2003;

The Renewables Obligation Order 2005 Statutory Consultation—September 2004;

2005-06 Review of the Renewables Obligation Preliminary Consultation—March 2005;

2005-06 Review of the Renewables Obligation Statutory Consultation—October 2005;

Reform of the Renewables Obligation and Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2007—October 2006;

Renewable Energy: Reform of the Renewables Obligation—May 2007.

They can be found on the BERR website—along with their supporting documents—at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/renewables-obligation/key-stages/page18361.html

Royal Mail: Telephone Services

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the revenue received from customers telephoning on telephone numbers beginning 08 by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* Consumer Direct in the last five financial years. [183044]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) respectively. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail and John Fingleton, Chief Executive of the OFT to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Tidal Power

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what tidal power schemes are under consideration in Government. [181853]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The Government have in place a number of initiatives that encourage the development of tidal power.

The Government's main mechanism for supporting renewable energy is the Renewables Obligation (RO). We recently announced our final plans to reform the RO so that it maximises contributions from both established and emerging technologies. These include providing greater support to tidal barrages and lagoons up to 1 Giga Watt and to tidal-stream technologies. Further details can be found at

www3.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/consultations/renewables-obligation/page39555.html

Support for the research and development of tidal power technology development is given by the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) which is a joint Government and industry initiative. Details on the ETI's first call for projects, launched on 17 December 2007, include tidal power and can be seen at:

www.energytechnologies.co.uk/technology-programmes/current-programmes/marine-wave-and-tidal/

In addition, the £50 million 'Marine Renewables Deployment Fund' provides a package of measures to support the first grid connected multi-device tidal-stream pre-commercial demonstrations. Further details can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/funding/marine/page19419.html

On 22 January we announced the detailed terms of reference for a new feasibility study that will look into the potential for tidal power in the Severn Estuary. Further details of the study can be found at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wave-tidal/tidal/severntidalpower/page41473.html

My Department is currently considering an application for consent for a tidal energy device in the Humber Estuary.

UK Trade and Investment: Closures

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which UK Trade and Investment offices outside the EU will see *(a)* a reduction in staff levels and *(b)* closure in the next 12 months. [180652]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI is working to deliver efficiency savings in its overseas network to meet the requirements of its comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement. This work is ongoing, as part of the business planning process, and the reduction in staff levels in connection with the CSR 07 efficiency savings remains to be determined.

Waste Heat Recovery

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to publish a waste heat strategy. [180483]

Malcolm Wicks: On 31 January 2008, BERR along with DEFRA and CLG published the Heat Call for Evidence. This Call for Evidence is an important next step in developing the Heat Strategy. The document sets out our understanding of the opportunities and prospects for de-carbonising heat use including heat from waste and some of the barriers that prevent the greater use of renewable heat.

The Call for Evidence will help inform what next steps may be needed and further improve understanding of the costs and barriers to taking action. Once the replies are logged, we will consult over the summer on policies to increase the use of renewable energy in the UK, including heat. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy will be published in spring 2009.

Wind Power: Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken in the *(a)* short and *(b)* medium term to solve the difficulties related to wind turbines and air defence radar. [184415]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated on 19 November 2007 that in order to remove the barriers to the deployment of onshore and offshore wind farms, he has asked my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Transport and myself to step up efforts in cooperation with industry and the regulators to identify and test technical solutions to the potential difficulties that wind farms pose to air traffic and defence radar. The Department is facilitating the resolution of these concerns. We have established groups to improve the understanding of the issues and to initiate programmes of work to identify, develop and implement mitigation solutions to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar. It is our aim to establish a range of mitigation solutions that can be considered and, where appropriate, utilised to allow the removal of objections to wind applications in respect to their potential impacts on radar. We are working closely with the various aviation stakeholders and the wind sector to drive these initiatives forward.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings the Department has had with wind farm *(a)* companies, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* associations to discuss objections to wind farm applications by the Ministry of Defence; and what the outcome has been. [184414]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department deals with the deployment of wind farms at both a strategic and project-specific level as part of renewables policy and the consenting regime under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. In this context, the Department has regular meetings with companies, organisations and associations, formally and informally, to discuss issues relevant to Ministry of Defence radar concerns.

At a strategic level my Department works to facilitate the resolution of concerns raised by the aviation bodies in respect to the deployment of wind turbines. We have established groups that are attended by organisations such as developers, CAA, NATS, airport operators and the MOD. The outcome has been an improvement in the understanding of the issues and the establishment of a programme of work to identify and develop mitigation solutions to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprenticeships

12. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of apprenticeships for 16 and 17 year olds. [183691]

Ed Balls: We have published the report "Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All", setting out plans to expand the number and range of Apprenticeships so that, from 2013, any suitably-qualified 16 to 18-year-old who wants an Apprenticeship can have one.

The expansion of Apprenticeships will support our plan to raise the participation age in learning.

Over the past decade, we have more than doubled the number of young people and adults starting Apprenticeships.

Parental Choice

13. **Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his Department's policy to maximise parental choice in relation to educational provision; and if he will make a statement. [183692]

Jim Knight: My Department is, indeed, committed to increasing parental choice in education provision. Our aim is to ensure that there are more places in good schools and in the right places for parents to choose from. Choice cannot be unfettered, however; it needs to be managed and that is why we have introduced a rigorous admissions code that will be properly enforced.

School Standards: Secondary Level

14. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to raise standards in secondary schools. [183693]

Jim Knight: Since 1997, we have doubled funding per pupil in real terms. We have put over 200,000 more adults in classrooms. We hit the 60 per cent. of pupils achieving good GCSEs target a year early. Gaps are narrowing. Low-performance at school and local authority level is diminishing. Our Children's Plan sets out how we will deliver a world-class education system. The Every Child Matters agenda, personalised learning, progression, curriculum changes, academies, new 14 to 19 diplomas, raising the participation age, work force reforms and continued investment are all taking this forward.

23. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to raise the educational standards in secondary schools. [183702]

Jim Knight: Since 1997, we have doubled funding per pupil in real terms. We have put over 200,000 more adults in classrooms. We hit the 60 per cent. of pupils achieving good GCSEs target a year early. Gaps are narrowing. Low-performance at school and local authority level is diminishing. Our Children's Plan sets out how we will deliver a world-class education system. The Every Child Matters agenda, personalised learning, progression, curriculum changes, academies, new 14-19 diplomas, raising the participation age, workforce reforms and continued investment are all taking this forward.

Examination Results

15. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of recent trends in school examination results; and if he will make a statement. [183694]

Jim Knight: Since 1997 there has been an unparalleled rise in primary and secondary school standards. For example, in 2007 60.8 per cent. of pupils gained five good GCSEs compared to 45.7 per cent. in 1997. There has also been a significant increase when English and mathematics are included.

The Children's Plan outlines ambitious goals for the next 10 years to build upon the considerable improvements in examination results already made.

Holocaust Education

16. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Holocaust Educational Trust's nationwide Lessons from Auschwitz project to teaching of the Holocaust in the national curriculum. [183695]

Ed Balls: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given earlier to today to my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire.

Youth Services: Expenditure

18. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for expenditure on youth services in the next three years. [183697]

Beverley Hughes: In addition to that funding which local authorities allocate to their youth services, over the next three years young people in England will benefit from direct DCSF investment of £1.4 billion in the Connexions Service, £222 million for the targeted Positive Activities for Young People programme and £198 million for the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds.

Illiteracy

19. **Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children reached 16 years of age unable to read and write in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [183698]

Jim Knight: Let us first be clear that being awarded below a grade G in GCSE English under no circumstances means that a pupil is unable to read or write. In 2007, 9,000 pupils did not achieve this standard. This covers 6 per cent. of the key stage 4 cohort; many of whom are likely to have special educational needs. Many of these pupils demonstrate their abilities in other qualifications, such as entry level qualifications.

Building Schools for the Future

20. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the progress of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [183699]

Jim Knight: The Building Schools for the Future programme is progressing well. The first BSF school (Bristol Brunel Academy) was opened by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State in September 2007. Local authorities plans show that we expect 12 new schools to be open by December 2008, 35 more in 2008-09, 115 more in 2009-10, 1[illegible]5 more in 2010-11, and then around 200 a year and rising thereafter.

Special Educational Needs

21. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initial assessment he has made of the impact of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Code of Practice (Providers of Post 16 Education) on young people with special educational needs. [183700]

Kevin Brennan: Our initial assessment of the impact of these provisions is that they have greatly influenced the quality of provision. The code of practice raised the level of awareness of what was required and led to improving the way the sector provides for young people with special educational needs and how the sector discharges its duties and responsibilities.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what mandatory training is required for *(a)* early identification of special educational needs and *(b)* teaching children with special educational needs in a mainstream setting from students enrolled on the (i) Initial Teacher Training scheme and (ii) Post Graduate Certificate in Education students; [184441]

(2) what work has been undertaken by the Training and Development Agency for Schools with regard to the special educational needs (SEN) skills required of *(a)* trainee, *(b)* nearly qualified and *(c)* established teachers as part of the Removing Barriers to Achievement programme; and what assessment has been made of (i) the pilot schemes for specialist modules for SEN implemented as part of the programme and (ii) the SEN training delivered to Post Graduate Certificate in Education students. [184442]

Kevin Brennan: An understanding of special educational needs is an integral part of all initial teacher training. In order to be awarded qualified teacher status, trainees must demonstrate that they:

> know how to make effective personalised provision for pupils they teach, including those with SEN, and know how to differentiate their teaching accordingly;
>
> have knowledge of current legislation and guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of the well-being of children and young people, including SEN and disability legislation and the SEN code of practice;
>
> understand the roles of colleagues with specific responsibility for groups of learners with SEN and other needs; and
>
> have the ability to communicate effectively with children, young people, colleagues, parents and carers.

As part of a wider programme to strengthen understanding of SEN and disability issues within initial teaching training, we have worked closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools, to develop and pilot a series of specialist SEN and disability units for primary undergraduate courses, and for newly qualified teachers during their induction. These units have been well received by both staff and students and it is planned to organise a national roll-out to all training providers this year. Work is also under way to develop similar materials for secondary undergraduate courses and the postgraduate certificate of education (PGCE).

Ofsted are also undertaking a thematic review of the journey taken by trainee teachers, in terms of acquiring SEN and disability knowledge and skills during their initial training and induction. The results of this review are expected to be published in the summer.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to discuss their own development needs in performance management reviews, and to address development priorities. This could include strengthening knowledge and understanding of SEN. Where schools have identified a need to strengthen knowledge and understanding of SEN, as a school improvement priority, this should be addressed through their school improvement and development plans.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN, ranging from awareness-raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

In October 2007, we launched our Inclusion Development Programme (IDP), which is designed to provide a programme of confidence-raising professional development for serving teachers and other staff. The opening round of the IDP has focused on training and resources in relation to children's speech, language and communication difficulties, including dyslexia. In later rounds, the IDP will focus on autistic spectrum disorders (ASD), behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) and moderate learning difficulties (MLD).

School Safety

22. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to make schools safer for children since 1997. [183701]

Kevin Brennan: The protection of children is our unequivocal first priority.

Through the Education Act 2002 we legislated to put a duty on schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils. And we have introduced important safeguards to prevent unsuitable people working with children in schools. We are introducing changes to ensure we have the toughest ever vetting and barring system. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will deliver the first centralised vetting and barring system for all those working with children and vulnerable adults.

Ahead of this legislation being implemented, we have tightened up the current system, so that anyone cautioned or convicted for sexual offences against children after 28 February 2007 is automatically entered on List 99 and barred from working in schools and other education settings. This applies to anyone aged 18 or over who is convicted of, or cautioned for, a relevant offence regardless of whether there is evidence that they have been in previous employment in the education and children's work force.

Alcohol: Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that young people receive appropriate education about alcohol abuse. [183696]

Kevin Brennan: I know this is an important issue for my hon. Friend, particularly given the circumstances surrounding the murder of her constituent Mr. Garry Newlove. I think we all share in the sadness that has resulted from this horrendous crime. I was pleased to hear that the three perpetrators have now been convicted of Mr. Newlove's murder.

We are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people particularly that associated with alcohol misuse. My hon. Friend will know from a previous written reply that alcohol education is delivered alongside that on drugs and volatile substances and is a vital element of our approach. DCSF guidance is clear that pupils' education about alcohol and its effects should start in primary school, before drinking patterns become established and should be revisited as pupils' understanding and experience increases.

We are clear of the need to be sure that alcohol education in schools is robust, accurate and effective. As part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to examine the effectiveness of current delivery arrangements for all drugs education—including alcohol—and act to strengthen them if necessary.

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* completed and *(b)* commissioned on the effects of academies on neighbouring schools; and if he will make a statement. [173242]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) commissioned a five-year independent evaluation of the academies programme by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in 2003. The aim of the evaluation is to assess the overall effectiveness of the programme in terms of its contribution to educational standards, including the impact of academies on neighbouring schools. The first four reports have already been published and the fifth and final report will be published in summer 2008.

In its report on the academies programme published in February 2007, the National Audit Office found that academies do not appear to impact unfairly on the performance of neighbouring schools.

Academies: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children attending Bexley Business Academy are resident in the *(a)* London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London borough of Greenwich. [178082]

Jim Knight: 60.7 per cent. of pupils on roll at the Business Academy at Bexley live in the London borough of Bexley and 37.5 per cent. live in the London borough of Greenwich.

Academies: Environment Protection

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have *(a)* sought and *(b)* been awarded eco-schools status. [166583]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance exists to determine the suitability of entities which sponsor academy schools; and if he will make a statement. [172745]

Jim Knight: The Department carries out rigorous checks to establish the suitability of individuals and organisations to become sponsors of academies. These include checking their financial viability to supply any funds pledged as well as their general suitability.

Ministers will make the final decision on whether to accept or reject sponsorship.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Enfield North have been rebuilt or improved under the Building Schools for the Future initiative over the last 10 years. [178808]

Jim Knight: Enfield has not yet entered the Building Schools for the Future programme, which aims to renew all secondary schools in England where there is need, in 15 waves of investment which started in 2005-06. We have now announced the first six waves, which are prioritised on educational and social need. Enfield is prioritised in waves seven to nine of the programme which can access funding from 2011-12. We aim shortly to consult on the management of waves seven to 15.

In 2007, we gathered information from all authorities on the improvements to their school buildings over the previous 10 years. This "School Building Investment Data" is available in the parliamentary Libraries. The information supplied by Enfield included that it had built six new schools, four of which were additional schools, and had rebuilt over 50 per cent. of the floor area of a further three schools.

Buildings Schools for the Future Programme: Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much money will be made available to Kent county council through the Building Schools for the Future programme; over what period is it to be spent; and what criteria have been set for the way it is to be used. [183064]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future aims to renew all secondary schools in England where there is need, in 15 waves of investment which started in 2005-06, including those in Kent. The first Kent project has been prioritised in wave three, and approximately £240 million has already been allocated to it. This funding will be used to transform 10 schools, improving the learning environments for thousands of young people. Kent is also prioritised in wave four, but the project is not yet sufficiently progressed for funding to be allocated. It will have further projects in later waves, prioritised on social and educational need.

For these waves and for subsequent ones, Kent will need to demonstrate how the investment will be deployed to meet its education vision and its strategy for the estate. The Strategy for Change process ensures that all local authorities can deliver transformational projects which create 21st century learning environments, with integrated ICT solutions and deliver a strategic approach to pupil place planning across the whole estate. The full BSF Strategy for Change guidance can be found at:

www.bsf.gov.uk/documents

Food: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children studied GCSE Food Technology in each year since 1997. [182533]

Jim Knight: The information is given as follows:

	Number
2006/07	78,911
2005/06	84,783
2004/05	93,325
2003/04	103,005
2002/03	103,817
2001/02	102,457
2000/01	106,545
1999/2000	107,016
1998/99	101,112
1997/98	94,005

The figures relate to 15-year-old pupils (age at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all schools.

Comparative figures for 1996/97 are not available.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools with sixth forms submitted one or more pupils for A-levels in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2000-01, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07 in (i) mathematics, (ii) physics, (iii) chemistry, (iv) French and (v) a modern language. [182895]

Jim Knight: The information to answer part *(d)* is as follows:

	Schools entering one or more pupils	
	Number	*Percentage*
Mathematics	1,649	41.3
Physics	1,494	37.4
Biology	1,601	40.1
Chemistry	1,558	39.0
English	502	12.6
French	1,207	30.2
German	852	21.3
Italian	102	2.6
Spanish	558	14.0
Any Modern Language	1,721	43.1

These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006) in all maintained schools.

'Any Modern Language' includes Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu.

To answer parts *(a)*, *(b)*, and *(c)* would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of entrants for GCSE *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* modern languages, *(c)* science (dual award), *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry and *(f)* biology examinations in 2007 attended (i) academies, (ii) maintained comprehensive schools, (iii) faith schools, (iv) grammar schools and (v) private schools; [177825]

(2) what proportion of entrants for GCSE *(a)* media studies, *(b)* dance, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* film studies and *(e)* communication studies examinations in 2007 attended (i) academies, (ii) maintained comprehensive schools, (iii) faith schools, (iv) grammar schools and (v) private schools. [177826]

Jim Knight: The information to answer parts (ii), (iv) and (v) is shown in the following table. To answer (ii) and (iii) would go over the disproportionate cost threshold.

Entries into GCSE examinations by school type for 2006/07

	Comprehensive schools		Selective schools		Independent schools		
	Number of entries	Percentage of total entries	Number of entries	Percentage of total entries	Number of entries	Percentage of total entries	Total entries
Any Subject	534,114	83.9	60,921	9.6	46,883	7.4	636,981
English and Mathematics	519,928	85.9	48,349	8.0	33,029	5.5	605,058
Mathematics and Science	501,198	85.7	48,517	8.3	33,298	5.7	584,917
English, Mathematics and Science	496,112	85.8	48,038	8.3	32,414	5.6	578,087
English, Mathematics, Science and a Modern Language	225,658	80.0	43,906	15.6	27,548	9.8	282,036
English	522,799	84.4	58,939	9.5	44,047	7.1	619,481
Mathematics	528,518	85.7	48,922	7.9	34,163	5.5	616,890
Any Science	503,904	84.0	59,441	9.9	44,707	7.5	599,695
Single Award Science	59,113	87.2	1,143	1.7	2,060	3.0	67,787
Double Award Science	375,440	86.4	35,354	8.1	25,792	5.9	434,779
Physics	28,375	55.9	20,697	40.8	14,158	27.9	50,744
Chemistry	28,503	55.8	20,806	40.8	14,338	28.1	51,056
Biological Sciences	30,356	56.0	21,615	39.9	15,449	28.5	54,170
Other Sciences	13,579	89.0	803	5.3	541	3.5	15,265
Any Design and Technology	283,416	88.5	20,385	6.4	10,666	3.3	320,225
D & T Electronic Products	13,023	90.1	841	5.8	156	1.3	14,448
D & T Food Technology	73,478	91.7	2,769	3.5	849	1.1	80,101
D & T Graphic Products	64,043	90.7	3,295	4.7	1,068	1.5	70,642
D & T Resistant Materials	74,040	84.7	8,003	9.2	6,056	6.9	87,431
D & T Systems and Control	7,681	82.7	1,275	13.7	572	6.2	9,292
D & T Textiles Technology	40,444	90.9	2,207	5.0	1,021	2.3	44,474
Other Design and Technology	23,328	85.4	2,204	8.1	1,021	3.7	27,332
Information Technology	64,429	79.5	10,036	12.4	6,267	7.7	81,081
Business Studies	67,011	85.6	7,808	10.0	4,414	5.6	78,320
Home Economics	32,243	88.1	1,400	3.8	1,873	5.1	36,612
Geography	145,346	78.6	29,867	16.1	21,971	11.9	184,978
History	161,465	79.1	32,983	16.1	23,977	11.7	204,251
Humanities	12,254	89.2	22	0.2	153	1.1	13,730
Social Studies	20,788	95.6	255	1.2	253	1.2	21,752
Music	44,436	80.8	7,825	14.2	5,521	10.0	54,992
Any Modern Language	232,025	76.9	55,904	18.5	40,261	13.4	301,575
French	141,243	74.7	38,889	20.5	28,837	15.2	189,740
German	60,161	79.4	13,989	18.5	7,546	10.0	75,793
Spanish	36,861	68.6	14,572	27.1	10,820	20.1	53,752
Italian	2,264	70.0	872	26.9	674	20.8	3,236
Other Modern Languages	13,847	74.8	2,970	16.0	3,664	19.8	18,524
Art and Design	153,941	82.5	19,150	10.3	15,409	8.3	186,483
English Literature	439,299	84.1	56,429	10.8	40,199	7.7	522,446
Drama	86,772	84.0	10,450	10.1	8,419	8.2	103,245
Media/Film/TV	55,060	93.2	717	1.2	479	0.8	59,071
Classical Studies	3,164	22.6	10,367	74.2	8,987	64.3	13,975
Physical Education	137,113	88.2	9,696	6.2	6,931	4.5	155,510
Religious Studies	130,947	84.3	17,987	11.6	12,926	8.3	155,249
Any other subjects	44,894	89.0	2,062	4.1	1,784	3.5	50,464

Note:

Dance is included in 'Physical Education'.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils gained a single F grade at GCSE in 2007; [182754]

(2) how many pupils gained a single G grade at GCSE in 2007. [182755]

Jim Knight: The information is given as follows:

	Number of pupils achieving a single grade in 2006/07
A*	494
A	264
B	317
C	593
D	1,014
E	1,930
F	2,944
G	3,993

The figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Geography: GCE A-Level

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's recommendation that A-level geography coursework be abolished; and if he will make a statement. [182826]

Jim Knight: It is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to set criteria for A levels, including whether specifications may or may not include coursework. Coursework is only allowed under subject criteria where it is the most valid way of assessing subject specific skills, and where it can be robustly assessed.

The decision to remove coursework from A level geography was made following extensive consultation by QCA. The subject criteria continue to strongly recommend that fieldwork is included at AS level, and to require it at A2 level. However, this fieldwork must be externally assessed rather than assessed through coursework.

Higher Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of people from the poorest backgrounds who obtained degree level qualifications in each of the last 10 years; [179610]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of people from the richest backgrounds who obtained degree level qualifications in each of the last 10 years. [179611]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

Information is available on full-time young (aged 18-20) participation in higher education by socio-economic class. The table shows the following:

1. The proportion of 18-20 year olds from the top three socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;
2. The proportion of 18-20 year olds from the bottom four socio-economic classes who participate for the first time in full-time higher education;
3. The difference, or "gap" between these two rates.

Full-time young participation by socio-economic class (FYPSEC)

Academic year	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
% from NS-SECs 1, 2 and 3	44.6	41.5	41.5	43.3
% from NS-SECs 4, 5, 6 and 7	17.6	17.9	17.7	19.9
Difference	27.0	23.6	23.8	23.4

The figures cover English-domiciled 18-20 year olds who are studying for the first time at higher education level at UK higher education institutions or English further education colleges, who remain on their courses for at least six months.

Due to a change from social class to socio-economic class in 2001, earlier comparable figures are not available. The 2006/07 figures will become available later this year.

The Government remain committed to widening participation in higher education it is an economic as well as a social imperative that everyone who can benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Widening participation is about spotting and nurturing talent, with schools, colleges and universities working together to ensure that all those with the potential and merit to benefit from higher education are able to do so.

Higher Education: Academies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which universities have agreed to sponsor academy schools; and which representatives from those universities Ministers in his Department have met in the past 12 months; [180342]

(2) in what ways his Department liaises with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the sponsorship of academy schools by universities. [180398]

Jim Knight: There are currently 16 universities which have agreed to sponsor an Academy or at various stages of developing formal Academy proposals. These are listed as follows.

Universities developing formal proposals

Brunel University
Birmingham City University (formerly University of Central England UCE)
Coventry University
Liverpool Hope University
London City University
Oxford Brookes University
Queen Mary College
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Bristol
University of Chester
University College London

University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of West of England

Ministers from the Department for Children, Schools and Families have met or spoken with the Vice-Chancellors of the following Universities in the past 12 months about their involvement in the Academies programme:

Oxford Brookes University
University College London
University of Nottingham
University of the West of England

Officials from the Department are in regular contact with DIUS on a range of matters, including university sponsorship of academies.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which universities require a GCSE at grade C or above in a modern language as part of their general entry requirements. [177301]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

That information is not collected centrally by the Department. As independent bodies, higher education institutions are free to set their own entry requirements for individual courses. However, a large number of institutions are now providing entry profiles for their courses, to enable potential applicants to clarify the entry criteria for any courses that they may be interested in. It is important that HE institutions publicise the availability of entry profiles and that careers advisers take them into account when advising young people on their options choices at age 13-14.

Literacy: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Colchester constituency and *(b)* Essex county council area of school leaving age were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years. [180362]

Jim Knight: The Department does not currently report figures for functional literacy at age 16. We are piloting functional English qualifications at entry level, level 1 and level 2 to be available from 2010 which will provide young people and adults with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work. The Government's current Public Service Agreement target is for 60 per cent. of 16-year-olds to achieve five good GCSE grades (A*- C) or equivalent by 2008. Figures for 2007 published on 9 January show that this target has been met. But we are raising the bar and in future the target for the end of Key Stage 4 will be measured against the proportion of pupils achieving five grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics. The 2007 figure for England achieving this standard was 46.7 per cent. compared with 37.0 per cent. in 1998.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in Colchester constituency and Essex achieving five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent, including English and Mathematics for each year since 1998:

		Percentage
	Colchester	*Essex*
1998	49.3	38.2
1999	45.3	39.5
2000	46.0	40.6
2001	49.2	41.3
2002	47.5	42.5
2003	47.4	41.6
2004	46.4	42.2
2005	45.5	42.9
2006	48.4	45.0
2007	49.5	46.9

In 2007 60.0 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English compared with 53.2 per cent. in 1998. We do not publish disaggregated figures for GCSE subjects at local authority level.

Literacy: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16-year-olds in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire county council area were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years. [179501]

Jim Knight: The Department does not currently report figures for functional literacy at age 16. We are piloting functional English qualifications at entry level, level 1 and level 2 to be available from 2010 which will provide young people and adults with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work. The Government's current public service agreement target is for 60 per cent. of 16-year-olds to achieve 5 good GCSE grades (A*- C) or equivalent by 2008. Figures for 2007 published on 9 January show that this target has been met. But we are raising the bar and in future the target for the end of Key Stage 4 will be measured against the proportion of pupils achieving 5 grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics. The 2007 figure for England achieving this standard was 46.7 per cent. compared with 37.0 per cent. in 1998.

The table shows the proportion of pupils in Tamworth constituency and Staffordshire achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent, including English and mathematics for each year since 1998:

	Tamworth	*Staffordshire*
1998	26.0	34.3
1999	25.7	37.8
2000	30.2	38.1
2001	28.9	38.3
2002	28.0	40.2
2003	26.5	39.5
2004	30.7	38.8
2005	35.0	42.2
2006	32.6	42.7
2007	34.8	45.5

In 2007 60.0 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English compared with 53.2 per cent. in 1998. We do not publish disaggregated figures for GCSE subjects at local authority level.

Pre-School Education: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, on Pre-School Education: Teachers, what results emerged from the modelling undertaken by his Department to determine the demand for teachers, including those with experience and knowledge of the early years, in the period 2008 to 2011. [178695]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* Our Teacher Supply Model takes account of a range of factors that determine how many teacher training places we need to set for future years. One of the most important is the number of pupils needing to be taught and our projections of these use data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This shows an increase in births and a need for more teachers beyond 2009/10, so we have increased the targets given to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) for teacher training places in the infant/primary phase. We will be revalidating these assumptions in 2009, based on the latest ONS data available, and will make any adjustments necessary. Another modelling exercise to forecast demand from 2011/12 to 2013/14 will begin in 2010.

The TDA has already allocated 1,760 places to training providers offering courses to those wishing to teach foundation stage and key stage 1 in each of the three years: an increase from 1,610 in 2007/08. It will allocate more places later to provide for the growth in 2009/10 and 2010/11 when there is better indication of regional and key stage demand.

Pupils : Personal Records

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 1397W, on pupils: personal records, what research is available on the family circumstances of a sample of pupils; and if he will make a statement. [166731]

Jim Knight: Information on the family circumstances of pupils has been gathered on a number of occasions when it has been directly relevant to the wider aims of a research study. There is no direct and simple way of establishing which research studies have gathered information on family circumstances and it would involve a disproportionate effort to do so, but as examples of the sort of information gathered, the London Challenge Parents questionnaire asked a sample of parents of 9 to 16-year-olds in London schools about home ownership, income, employment and number of people in the family, and the Youth Cohort study has regularly asked a national sample of 16 to 21-year-olds about their health, whether they looked after any other family members and whether they had any housing or family problems. The published reports of these and other individual studies are available through the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway on its website.

Runaway Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Office has taken to provide *(a)* a network of refuge provision and *(b)* reintegration support for runaways under the age of 16 years since 2001; in how many local areas there is a named person to co-ordinate services for runaways; what progress has been made in reducing local variations in the provision of such services; and if he will make a statement; [183170]

(2) what percentage of young runaways were interviewed to identify and tackle their reasons for running away in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [183171]

Kevin Brennan: I agree that it is vital to ensure the safety and well-being of those children and young people who run away from home or care, and to tackle the underlying causes that lead to running away.

A report from the social exclusion unit (SEU) in 2002 identified the problems for young runaways and set out how the Government should respond, highlighting the importance of early intervention and prevention, and of integrating children's services. These issues were addressed in the Every Child Matters Green Paper and the subsequent Change for Children programme. Last year, we commissioned the Children's Society to assess how far these changes had in fact improved services for young runaways, and to identify what more needed to be done. We received their report "Stepping Up" in the autumn and, in response, we have established a cross-departmental working group on young runaways, to co-ordinate the Government's work on young runaways.

The working group will develop an action plan on young runaways, to be published in June 2008, which will set out the necessary actions to improve services for young runaways, building on the principles set out in the "Stepping Up" report recommendations, and the recommendations made following the parliamentary panel hearings on young runaways in October 2007. The action plan will cover emergency accommodation provision, recognising the need for young runaways to have safe places or 'breathing spaces' to go to in a crisis, and the Missing from Home and Care guidance, to support local areas in delivering effective services for young runaways.

We do not currently collect data centrally on young runaways and the services they receive. A new indicator on young people who run away from home or care has been included in the National Indicator Set, to be measured from 2009. The working group will consider what data collections will best support this indicator, and their conclusions will be represented in the action plan.

Schools: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Essex use a lottery system to allocate school places; and if he will make a statement. [178841]

Jim Knight: We do not prescribe what policies individual admission authorities should use and therefore do not hold information centrally on the number of schools using random allocation as part of their oversubscription criteria. The school admissions code allows schools to use a number of ways to allocate places if they are oversubscribed, including random allocation. This is not new—it has long been acceptable to use these criteria. Admission authorities are free to choose appropriate admission arrangements on the basis of local circumstances and parental demand, as long as they comply with the school admissions code and admissions legislation.

Schools: Firearms

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has given to schools on contingency planning for firearms incidents on school premises. [178664]

Jim Knight: We have provided—at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/emergencies/

—guidance to schools which encourages and helps them develop emergency planning and response measures against floods and fire; it also provides links to other Government sources of advice on, for example, anti-terrorism. Schools can build on such measures for dealing with large-scale evacuation, on which we contributed to Cabinet Office guidelines, and with other contingencies. We have also produced, with the Home Office, "School Security: Dealing with Troublemakers and a Legal Toolkit"—at:

http://www.teachernet..gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/schoolsecurity/abusivebehaviour/

—which set out the law and good practice in such a way as to help schools cope with intruders, though they do not focus on dealing with armed intruders, nor pupils bringing in firearms.

We are working towards further guidance for schools on emergency planning and response, and will consider if and how this might cover the very rare incidents of firearms in schools.

Schools: Infectious Diseases

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many identifiable outbreaks of infection were reported by schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the infection was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [183175]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information requested.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives reports of outbreaks of illness in school from the Medical Officers of Schools Association (MOSA). This voluntary reporting scheme covers selected boarding schools only and it provides data on trends rather than estimates of national totals. Data for 2001 to 2006 are provided in Table 1.

Since 2004 the HPA has also been operating a national voluntary scheme for schools to report outbreaks and incidents: the National Incident Database. Data for outbreaks and their causes in 2006, the first year for which reliable figures are available, are in Table 2.

The HPA introduced the national Incident Reporting Information System (IRIS) to replace the National Incident Database with effect from 1 January 2007. 272 outbreaks were reported to IRIS in 2007. A detailed analysis has not yet been carried out.

Table 1: MOSA school outbreaks reported to the Centre for Infections through the weekly illness surveillance scheme: 2000 to 2006

	Type			
	Gastro	*Other*	*Respiratory*	*Total*
2000	6	1	17	24
2001	16	9	43	68
2002	21	3	24	48
2003	21	1	48	70
2004	15	2	18	35
2005	7	1	22	30
2006	7	0	19	26
Total	93	17	191	301

Notes
1. Gastro: Gastrointestinal disease. Other: infectious mononucleosis, measles, rubella, chicken pox, herpes zoster, mumps, meningitis, hepatitis. Respiratory: upper respiratory tract infection, chest infection, influenza and flu-like illness.
2. There are approx 40 schools in the surveillance scheme.

Table 2: Outbreaks of infectious diseases in schools reported to HPA (National Incident Database): 2006

Illness	*Number of outbreaks*
Gastrointestinal	155
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (cause not specified)	113
Escherichia coli O157	1
Norovirus	38
Salmonella	3
Mumps	4
Respiratory	81
Acute respiratory illness	1
Influenza and influenza-like illness	54
Pneumococcal disease	1
Scarlet fever	3
Streptococcus	1
Tuberculosis	1
Viral respiratory illness	20
Respiratory + Gastrointestinal	16
Influenza and norovirus	12
Influenza-like illness and diarrhoea and/or vomiting	4
Measles, mumps rubella	7
Measles	3
Mumps	4
Skin	6
Impetigo	1
Ringworm	2
Scabies	2
Trycophyton tonsurans	1
Other	8
Chickenpox	2
Conjunctivitis	3
Parvovirus (aka fifth disease, slapped cheek)	3
Not known/not stated	
Biological outbreaks, cause not stated	10
Total	280

Schools: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's capital expenditure on schools in the city of York was in each financial year since 1996-97. [183490]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Department's allocation of capital for schools in the city of York in each financial year since 1996-97 is set out in the following table. Actual expenditure in any year on schools may differ from this, due to expenditure timing differences and prioritisation at local level.

	£ million
1996-97	0.04
1997-98	0.3
1998-99	1.3
1999-2000	2.3
2000-01	4.3
2001-02	3.2
2002-03	6.2
2003-04	5.4
2004-05	4.7
2005-06	5.5
2006-07	53.9
2007-08	4.3

The £5.5 million in 2005-06 in 2005-06 includes £0.9 million in respect of a targeted capital fund (TCF) scheme, and the £53.9 million allocation in 2006-07 includes £20.2 million in respect of TCF schemes and £27.4 million for a One School Pathfinder.

Science: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools did not have a specialist science teacher in the latest period for which figures are available. [182232]

Jim Knight: This information is not available in the format requested.

A sample survey of heads of science departments in maintained secondary schools carried out for the DFES in 2005 found that 1 per cent. of schools had no biology specialists, 7 per cent. had no chemistry specialists and 16 per cent. had no physics specialists.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to raise standards in secondary schools. [178716]

Jim Knight: The Children's Plan, published in December 2007, includes an overview of the key activities we are undertaking to raise standards in secondary schools. Some key facts are:

Record numbers of 16-year-olds are now achieving five good GCSEs. In total over 470,000 more young people have gained at least five good GCSEs over the period 1997-2007. Total funding per pupil has increased by 87 per cent. in real terms since 1997, and the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of teachers in local authority maintained secondary schools has increased by 27,400 and 69,500 for FTE teaching assistants and other support staff.

2007 provisional results show there has been a 17 percentage point increase in the number of 14-year-old pupils achieving level 5 or above in English, a 16 percentage point increase in mathematics and a 13 percentage point increase in science at key stage 3 since 1997. At key stage 4, 60.8 per cent. of pupils aged 15 achieved five or more good GCSEs—a 15.7 percentage point increase since 1997—which means the 2008 60 per cent. target for the percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades has been achieved a year early.

Through the Building Schools for the Future and Academies programmes we are investing £9.3 billion over the three years 2007-2008 to 2010-2011 to rebuild or refurbish every secondary school in England.

More than 2,800 secondary schools—88 per cent. of the total—have specialist school status and we are on track to achieve the target of every eligible school achieving specialist status by next year. More than 300 schools have either become Trusts or are working towards Trust status enabling them to work with external partners to create a distinctive ethos and direction for their school.

There are now 83 academies open in 49 local authorities. The Government are firmly committed to establishing 400 academies and regard the scaling up of the programme as a national imperative, supported by the growing body of evidence—improved GCSE results and key stage 3 results; and independent reports by the National Audit Office, PricewaterhouseCooper and Ofsted that academies are proving to be highly effective. A further 50 academies are projected to open in each of the following three years, (2008 to 2010), thereby exceeding the target of 200 academies by 2010.

There is more work still to do. In recent years, the number of children eligible for free school meals achieving five good GCSEs has improved faster than the national average, but we need to do more to tackle some of the gaps between economically disadvantaged pupils and their peers, and between boys and girls.

The Secondary National Strategy for School Improvement is at the heart of our work to transform secondary education and spreads effective teaching and learning to all schools through training and materials, a comprehensive development programme for teachers and support from local consultants who are experts in their field. This year we will be renewing the secondary frameworks for teaching to provide teachers with resources to capitalise on the opportunity presented by the new secondary curriculum to accelerate progress for all pupils.

To ensure that all pupils are able to fulfil their potential, we continue to seek to improve attendance and behaviour in schools. Our national programme will strengthen schools' capacity, to increase significantly the two-thirds of secondary schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted in standards of behaviour. The Children's Plan set for all local authorities the goal of 5 per cent. or fewer 'persistent absentees' amongst their secondary pupils by 2011, reducing the level by a third compared to 2006.

Special Educational Needs: Somerset

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Somerset had special educational needs in each year since 2001, broken down by category of special educational need. [183449]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on pupils' type of special educational need (SEN) as part of the School Census. There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including:

local interpretation of definitions;

classification of children with multiple needs;

differences in diagnoses between education and health professionals; and

availability of school-based provision.

To minimise the impact of these factors, revised guidance was available to schools from October 2005. The data collected on pupils' type of need is suitably reliable and robust to analyse at local authority level from January 2006 onwards. The available figures covering 2006 and 2007 have been placed in the Library. Information on the primary type of need is only collected for pupils with statements of special educational needs or at "School Action Plus". It is not collected for pupils at "School Action".

The information has been taken from the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England" which is published annually. The latest figures, for 2007, can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers trained in *(a)* food technology, *(b)* history and *(c)* a modern language in each year since 1997. [182280]

Jim Knight: The tables show the number of teachers gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) for history and modern foreign languages by Mainstream and Employment Based Routes (EBR) Initial Teacher Training (ITT). Data for food technology are not available separately as they are included within aggregate figures for design and technology.

Table 1 Mainstream ITT, Teachers gaining QTS: Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06—England

	Modern foreign languages	History
Secondary subject		
1997/98	1,490	870
1998/99	1,410	790
1999/2000	1,290	760
2000/01	1,390	770
2001/02	1,340	790
2002/03	1,350	840
2003/04	1,450	850
2004/05	1,360	830
2005/06	1,260	780

Notes:

1. Includes Universities and other Higher Education institutions, SCITT and Open University, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Cases where QTS is granted on assessment without a course on ITT are not included in the table.

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

Table 2 Employment based ITT teachers gaining QTS: Academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06—England

	Modern foreign languages	History
Secondary subje[illegible]		
2001/02	170	50
2002/03	230	60
2003/04	230	90
2004/05	240	130
2005/06	220	130

Table 2 Employment based ITT teachers gaining QTS: Academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06—England

Modern foreign languages History

Note:

Rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

Teachers: Training

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many institutions have brought together training for early years professional status and qualified teacher status and awarded both concurrently; [178671]

(2) how many Bachelor of Education courses include training on working with children from birth to the age of three. [178699]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* None so far, but the Training and Development Agency for Schools and Children's Workforce Development Council will soon be discussing this with training providers of initial teaching and early years professional status to explore the feasibility of such training being offered.

None. The Secretary of State's requirements for initial teacher training (which includes PGCE as well as BA and BEd courses) only covers the ages three to 19. However, beyond initial teacher training, degree courses to provide training on working with children in the 0-3 age-range are available via the Early Years Sector Endorsed Foundation Degree and the Early Years Study Degree. Training towards the award of Early Years Professional Status is also available for graduates who wish to develop their knowledge and experience of working with 0-3 year olds.

Urdu: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers were trained to teach Urdu last year. [182277]

Jim Knight: The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) did not fund any initial teacher training (ITT) courses in Urdu for the academic year 2006/07.

Young People

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms his Department has established to determine the prevalence of positive activities, as defined in its 2007 strategy, Aiming high for young people: a 10 year strategy for positive activities. [183203]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are putting in place a performance indicator to gather information on the participation of young people in positive activities. This will form part of the national indicator set which gathers data on the performance of local authorities. It is planned that the indicator set will be in place from April 2008.

Physical Education: Teachers

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many initial teacher training places were available for physical education teachers at Loughborough University in each of the last three years; and how many will be available in 2008-09. [183662]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* In 2008/09, there will be 1,570 places available for physical educational initial teacher training (ITT). This includes school centred ITT and employment-based routes ITT, but does not include teach first.

The following table show the number of initial teacher training (ITT) places which were allocated for physical education at Loughborough university for academic years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Physical education ITT allocation to Loughborough university

	Allocated places for physical education at Loughborough university
2005/06	80
2006/07	69
2007/08	59
2008/09	59

Source:
TDA's ITT Trainee Number Census

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Codes of Practice

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office guidance for civil servants on restrictions on political activity. [181306]

Mr. Watson: The restrictions on the involvement of civil servants in political activities are set out in Section 4.4 of the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179795]

Mr. Watson: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179840]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has not produced posters or displays focused on Ministers for general display in office buildings.

On occasion the Department may produce material for display and distribution within the Department. For example, departmental organisation charts. Any such material is produced in-house and the costs are not separately identifiable.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the special advisers employed in the Cabinet Office since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184380]

Mr. Watson: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 682W, on departmental public consultations, if he will place copies in the Library of the *(a)* summary and *(b)* full findings of each such internal survey undertaken since 1 March 2007. [180457]

Mr. Watson: The Department's annual People Survey is an extensive survey and covers all staff. Reports of these annual surveys from 2005 and 2006 are available in the Library and the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/staff_surveys.asp

A report on the 2007 annual survey, carried out in December 2007, will be published in due course.

In the run-up to the annual survey the Department conducted short internal surveys of a small sample of staff. These surveys were purely for internal management purposes only and are not for publication.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* male and *(B)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181359]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS was created in July 2007 by the amalgamation of elements from BERR (formerly DTI) and DCSF (formerly DFES). As a consequence it has not existed for the time scale specified.

There are currently 50 males and 48 females who have been issued with personal digital assistants in DIUS.

English Language: Education

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills at which institutions English for Speakers of Other Languages approved courses were delivered in the latest period for which figures are available; and at what level each provided courses. [181559]

Mr. Lammy: The latest set of data is from 2005/06 for those enrolled with a learning aim of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and is collected across nine Learning and Skills Council (LSC) regional locations. This is as follows:

ESOL 2005/06

	All levels	*Entry level*	*Level 1*	*Level 2*	[1] *Unknown*
East Midlands	42,316	20,431	2,654	842	18,389
East of England	34,854	19,515	2,872	1,135	11,332
Greater London	184,606	108,668	16,042	6,729	53,167
National Employer Service	14,097	3,428	0	0	10,669
North East	17,189	10,174	980	396	5,639
North West	55,863	29,631	5,260	2,018	18,954
South East	64,890	33,565	7,094	3,070	21,161
South West	32,605	16,393	3,598	1,350	11,264
West Midlands	58,908	32,322	3,474	924	22,188
Yorkshire and the Humber	44,100	24,230	3,351	1,617	14,902
All LSC regions	549,429	298,357	45,325	18,081	187,664

[1] Unknown: where the provider has not stipulated a level, often as the course can be tailored to meet different levels.

European Youth Pact

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken in consequence of the European Youth Pact. [181087]

Bill Rammell: The European Youth Pact calls on member states to equip young people with the necessary knowledge, opportunities, skills and competencies to ensure that they can contribute to the achievement of Lisbon goals of boosting jobs and growth. The United Kingdom implements the pact as part of its wider National Reform Programme (NRP) to meet these Lisbon goals.

The NRP involves a co-ordinated approach by a number of Government Departments and DIUS has a crucial role to play, particularly on skills. The Education and Skills Bill, which will bring in the legislative changes needed to implement key elements of the Leitch review, will increase participation in learning for young people and adults driving towards the Government's aim of a country with world class skills by 2020.

Flags

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on the flying of EU flags by establishments for which his Department is responsible. [181702]

Mr. Lammy: The Department adheres to Government policy on the flying of EU flags on Government buildings. This policy states that the EU flag can be flown once a year on Europe Day (9 May), provided that the building has two or more flagpoles and that the Union flag is also flown in a superior position. Individual local authorities, and the educational establishments for which they are responsible, can choose to fly any flag of their choice.

Further Education: Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students were studying for a higher educational qualification in a further education college in each of the last five years. [172277]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following table.

Higher education enrolments at English further education colleges[1]—academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2001/02	139,630
2002/03	134,970
2003/04	143,065
2004/05	141,365
2005/06	139,410

[1] Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies transferred to the Higher Education sector in 2002 and Leeds College of Music transferred in July 2005.

Note:

Figures are on a DIUS whole year count basis, which counts students enrolled at any point in the academic year, and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record

The changes in the number of Higher Education Enrolments at Further Education Colleges will have been affected by the transfer of institutions from the Further Education sector to the Higher Education sector. In addition, changes in the reporting methods used to record franchising arrangements between Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges may have contributed to the changes in numbers. Franchising is a process where students take a course delivered by an institution on behalf of another institution and this often occurs between Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges.

Higher Education: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of school leavers went on to higher education in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in 2007. [181690]

Bill Rammell: This information is not held centrally.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation in higher education is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005/06.

The equivalent figure for 18-year-olds only is 21.3 per cent. for 2005/06.

Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applicants accepted onto higher education courses did not commence those courses as first time students in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [175790]

Bill Rammell: The available information, showing the number of students who obtained a place but opted to defer entry, is given in the table. The most recent information published by UCAS for 2007 entry shows that accepted applicants from England rose to 306,960, the highest ever figure.

English domiciled students accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses at UK HE institutions

Year of entry	*All accepted applicants*	*Of which: Those deferring entry*
2004	277,080	23,005
2005	301,800	25,170
2006	289,230	22,960
2007	306,960	23,259

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Figures cover students who were accepted to first degree, foundation degree, HND and Dip HE courses, at UK HE institutions and at a small number of FE colleges.

Investors in People: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the sum revenue accrued from businesses by Investors in People UK was in the latest period for which figures are available. [181699]

Mr. Lammy: I can confirm that the sum revenue accrued from businesses by Investors in People UK for the year ended 31 March 2007 is £692,087, according to their published accounts.

Music: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to prevent the illegal downloading of (i) music and (ii) films from the internet; what discussions (A) he, (B) Ministers in his Department and (C) officials have had with representatives of the music and film industry on the matter since June 2007; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [177119]

Ian Pearson: Ministers from the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills work regularly with other Ministers across Government. They have regular contact with representatives of the music and film industries, as have officials, to discuss a range of IP related issues including those relating to the protection of copyright.

The illegal downloading of copyright protected music and films from the internet is a serious issue and through the UK Intellectual Property Office DIUS works to tackle these issues, by ensuring that the legal framework for copyright is effective and by taking action on enforcement, for example through the National IP Crime Strategy. In addition we work with right holders and other stakeholders to improve awareness and respect for IP among users—to try and reduce demand for, and supply of, illegal content.

Ministers and officials from the UK-IPO meet regularly with representatives of the music and film industries as well as other stakeholders, such as other types of rightsholders, technology companies and users of copyright materials. Meetings often cover a diverse range of topics relating to copyright issues and in many instances will involve discussions on key issues such as the illegal downloading of online materials. A detailed inspection of the records shows that during the period in question meetings took place with a variety of organisations representing the music and film industries. Ministers and/or senior officials met with organisations such as British Music Rights, BPI, EMI, the Musicians' Union, the British Copyright Council, the British Screen Advisory Council, the UK Film Council, Time Warner, and the Alliance against IP Theft. These meetings generally took place in either Government premises or at the offices of the organisation concerned, and commonly lasted for an hour or so. The extent of any records kept, including records of who attended, depends on the subject matter—in many instances these meetings were introductory meetings which covered a large number of topics. It is not known to what extent non-governmental attendees may have made their own records.

Performing Arts: Royalties

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations he has received since June 2007 on performing rights royalties; what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with representatives of the music and film industry since June 2007 on this issue; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if he will undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of the royalties system. [177121]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials from my Department have had, and continue to have, regular contact with representatives of the music and film industry. An inspection of available records show that there have been no substantive discussions on performing rights royalties during this period.

In terms of other representations, the Department has occasionally received letters forwarded by hon. Members from their constituents about this issue.

Although copyright law that underpins these royalties is shaped largely by international and European law, Ministers and officials are aware of the need to keep the UK system under review. The most recent review of intellectual property, by Andrew Gowers, made no recommendations which directly focused on the royalties system.

Physical Education: Training

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many initial teacher training places will be available for physical education teachers in 2008-09. [183659]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

In 2008/09, there will be 1,570 places available for physical educational initial teacher training (ITT). This includes school centred ITT and employment-based routes ITT, but does not include teach first.

The following table show the number of initial teacher training (ITT) places which were allocated for physical education at Loughborough university for academic years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Physical education ITT allocation to Loughborough university

	Allocated places for physical education at Loughborough university
2005/06	80
2006/07	69
2007/08	59
2008/09	59

Source:
TDA's ITT Trainee Number Census.

Student Loans Company: Complaints

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cheltenham of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on Student Loans Company: complaints, if he will provide the equivalent information on complaints to the Student Loans Company made from January 2001 to November 2006. [182919]

Bill Rammell: The total number of complaints received by the Student Loans Company (SLC) about the income contingent loan scheme in the period April 2005 to November 2006 is set out in the following table. This information is not available prior to April 2005.

Complaints received by the SLC about ICL repayments April 2005 to November 2006

	Deductions taken	*Incorrect advice telephone and correspondence*	*Misunderstood scheme*	*System/clerical failure*	*Total*
November 2006	10	0	8	5	23
October 2006	5	0	13	8	26
September 2006	3	0	7	6	16
August 2006	6	0	20	16	42
July 2006	6	2	8	4	20
June 2006	6	0	13	4	23
May 2006	5	1	10	7	23
April 2006	2	0	11	5	18
March 2006	2	3	9	7	21
February 2006	2	0	10	6	18
January 2006	2	0	11	6	19
December 2005	4	0	15	3	22
November 2005	2	1	8	10	21
October 2005	1	2	9	9	21
September 2005	4	1	0	3	8
August 2005	12	0	3	5	20
July 2005	2	0	3	7	12
June 2005	5	1	16	9	31
May 2005	2	1	11	3	17
April 2005	3	1	14	6	24
Total	84	13	199	129	(425)

Students Debts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much student debt is owed to the Government. [178090]

Bill Rammell: At as the end of the financial year 2006-07, for English domiciled students and EU students studying in England, there was a total of £18,100 million loans outstanding, consisting of £17,000 million income contingent loans, and £1,100 million mortgage style loans.

Students: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints have been received about the time taken to pay student loans or grants; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for complaints. [181908]

Bill Rammell: In the academic year 2007-08 the Student Loans Company (SLC) has so far received 65 complaints about the time taken to pay student loans or grants. We do not have a breakdown of the causes of the complaints received by SLC and we have no record of complaints that may have been made to local authorities.

The SLC has paid loans and grants to 825,000 customers attending university in England in academic year 2007-08. Delays can occur at different parts of the process: late applications; delays in supplying information and evidence; if confirmation is not received that students have registered at their college; if assessment and approval processes are not completed within the agreed performance standards.

Students: Grants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans there are to give grants to more university students. [181019]

Bill Rammell: We announced in July last year that from academic year 2008/09 we will substantially increase the number of students entitled to non-repayable maintenance grants. The minimum household income for a full maintenance grant of £2,835 a year will be extended from £17,910 in 2007/08 to £25,000 in 2008/09. The maximum household income for a partial maintenance grant has been raised from £38,300 in 2007/08 to £60,005 in 2008/09. By 2011, the number of students receiving some level of grant will increase by 100,000. As part of this change, an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant. In total, around two thirds of eligible students will be entitled to a full or partial grant each year—compared to around a half now. The new grant arrangements will be available to all eligible 2008/09 entrants, including those who have deferred entry from academic year 2007/08. The aim of these new arrangements is to ensure that everyone with the potential to progress into higher education has the financial support to do so, no matter what their background.

Students: Loans

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons the annual percentage interest rate on student loans increased from 2.4 per cent. to 4.8 per cent. on 1 September 2007. [175643]

Bill Rammell: Student loans have very different features to commercial loans. Graduates with income contingent loans (ICL) only repay once they are in work and only when their annual income reaches £15,000. Interest is charged at the rate of inflation, so students only pay back in real terms the amount they originally borrowed.

This is achieved by linking the interest rate for student loans to the annual rate of inflation as defined by the retail prices index (RPI). The interest rate is recalculated each year at the beginning of September using the RPI figure from the previous March. This methodology ensures that over time the student loan interest rate will be equivalent to the rate of inflation but with a time lag.

For the academic year 2007/08, the interest rate is set at the rate for RPI for the year to March 2007—4.8 per cent. Although the underlying RPI rate has fallen since March, and is now below the 2007/08 student loan interest rate, this works both ways. In other years, the time-lag will benefit borrowers, as it did in 2006/07. Over time, peaks and troughs even out, and borrowers repay no more in real terms than they borrow.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the resource cost is expected to be of *(a)* fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [183947]

Bill Rammell: Provision for the resource cost of fee and maintenance loans for English domiciled HE students in RAB terms[1] is shown in the following table. The RAB charge applied for fee loans is 33 per cent. and for maintenance loans is 21 per cent.[2]

[1] The RAB charge is an estimate of the percentage of the face value of loans issued in that year which reflects the resource cost over the expected life of the loan to the Government of making the loans.

[2] Figures exclude the impact of the repayment holiday.

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Maintenance loans	573	584	606
Fee loans	596	722	782

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he will answer question *(a)* 177121, *(b)* 177140 and *(c)* 177131 tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West on 4 January 2008; what the reason for the time taken to reply is in each case; what steps he has (i) taken and (ii) plans to take to seek to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if he will make a statement. [182642]

Ian Pearson: I replied to questions 177140, 177119 and 177121 today and apologise for the delay. Question 177131 has been transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to answer.

Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* 16-year-olds, *(b)* 17-year-olds and *(c)* 18 to 24-year-olds are *(a)* in part-time education and *(b)* not in any education. [182643]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education for those aged 16 to 18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The most recent estimates of the number and proportion of academic age 16, 17, and 18-year-olds in England in full-time education, part-time education, and not in any education, are shown in the following tables. The figures relate to the end of 2006. Note that young people classed as 'not in education' will include those in work-based learning and other training.

Proportion of young people in education by academic age (DCSF SFR)

			Percentage
	Academic Age		
	16	17	18
Full-time education	78	65	41
Part-time education	4	5	6
Not in education	18	30	53

Number of young people in education by academic age (DSCF SFR)

			Number
	Academic Age		
	16	17	18
Full-time education	516,900	428,600	277,500
Part-time education	25,400	33,700	40,400
Not in education	119,900	197,200	361,900

The Department does not publish estimates of participation in education above academic age 18. However, it is possible to produce estimates for 18 to 24-year-olds from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates for England from the LFS, relating to the first quarter of 2007, are shown in the following tables. It is important to note that the LFS will not produce estimates that directly match those from the Department's Participation SFR, and that they will be subject to sampling error and respondent error. The LFS estimates of population size by cohort also differ from the Participation SFR. LFS estimates are also provided for young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 for comparison with the Departments estimates as tabled above.

Proportion in education by academic age, Labour Force Survey

				Percentage
	Academic Age			
	16	17	18	18 to 24
Full-time education	78	69	45	25
Part-time education	5	7	6	8
Not in education	17	24	49	67

Number in education by academic age, Labour Force Survey

				Number
	Academic Age			
	16	17	18	18 to 24
Full-time education	517,363	434,132	287,332	1,087,573
Part-time education	32,257	42,982	38,390	340,353
Not in education*	110,723	149,879	308,349	2,862,338

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of the percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education or training in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district area and *(c)* Leeds West constituency. [183143]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16 to 18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The most recent estimate of the proportion of young people of academic age 16 to 18 not in any education or training in England was 22.7 per cent. This estimate relates to the end of 2006.

The Department also publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are available only for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local figures are available by local authority, but cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency. The local participation estimates cover those in full-time education, part-time education, and work-based learning, but do not identify young people in employer funded training[1] or other education and training[2] apart from those on a part-time education course. This means that young people on such training will be included in the "not in education or work-based learning" figure.

The most recent local estimates for Leeds relate to the end of 2005, and are shown in the following table. The equivalent national estimates, calculated on the same basis, are also shown for comparison.

[1] Employer-funded training covers employees who have received training in the past four weeks, other than on a part-time education course.

[2] Other education and training covers young people who are studying but are not included in other categories. For example those attending independent colleges or training centres, or those at any college in part-time study not reported as released from job.

Proportion of young people not in education or work-based learning by academic age, end 2005

				Percentage
	16	17	18	16 to 18
Leeds Metropolitan district area	22	32	n/a	n/a
England	14	24	46	28

Young People: Vocational Training

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of the percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in work-based learning, including apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Leeds metropolitan district area and *(c)* Leeds West constituency. [183127]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16 to 18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The most recent estimate of the proportion of young people of academic age 16 to 18 in work-based learning in England was 7.2 per cent. This estimate relates to the end of 2006. The figure includes all young people on apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, NVQ learning and Entry to Employment, but not pre-apprenticeships, since these are not yet available for study.

Pre-apprenticeships will be part of the offer to young people for whom a Level 2 programme is not yet suitable. We are reforming the qualifications and programmes at this level—the "Foundation Learning Tier"—and trials are under way of four new pathways, one of which is specifically designed for young people who are preparing to progress into the workplace, as a successor to Entry to Employment.

The Department also publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are available only for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local figures are available by local authority, but cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency. The most recent local estimates for participation in work-based learning for Leeds relate to the end of 2005, and are shown in the following table. The equivalent national estimates are also shown for comparison.

Proportion of young people in work-based learning by academic age, end 2005

				Percentage
	16	*17*	*18*	*16 to 18*
Leeds Metropolitan district area	6	8	n/a	n/a
England	6	8	8	7

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information: Appeals

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many decisions by public bodies not to disclose information under the Freedom of Information Act have been appealed against since 2005. [183815]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not have a central record of the number of refusals appealed for internal review for all public authorities. Since 2005, the Information Commissioner has received 7,682 applications for a decision under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Many of these complaints are procedural, concerning—for example—a public authority's timeliness. Owing to the highly varied nature of complaints, comprehensive data on the number of substantive appeals to the commissioner are not available.

Requesters have made 136 appeals to the Information Tribunal under the Freedom of Information Act (including 14 cases relating to decisions under the Environmental Information Regulations). Requesters have made two appeals against Information Tribunal decisions to the High Court.

Ministry of Justice: Reorganisation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 8-10, on Ministry of Justice (Reorganisation), what criteria his Department plans to use to judge the performance of the new structure in *(a)* improving public protection, *(b)* reducing reoffending, *(c)* improving relations with the judiciary and *(d)* streamlining leadership in Wales; and what measurement process will be used. [184055]

Mr. Hanson: The new structure for the Ministry of Justice will provide the Department with a sharper focus on its key priorities, including public protection and reducing re-offending, and improving relations with the judiciary, while streamlining leadership across the whole of the Department's agenda and removing duplication and overlapping responsibilities. A performance framework is being developed for the Department, which will include indicators for monitoring progress against departmental strategic objectives and our commitments, including any specifically relating to Wales, within the government public service agreements. It will also have indicators for assessing improvements in the way we work across the Department.

National Offender Management Service: PFI

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the budget for prison and probation service property held at the National Offender Management Service includes repayment costs for private finance initiative projects. [181940]

Maria Eagle: The property private finance initiative (PFI) projects are treated as "on balance sheet". Capital expenditure related to PFI projects is charged in full against the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) capital budget at the time the asset is ready for use. In addition, the NOMS estimate of costs of construction due to the contractor is also recognised on the NOMS balance sheet as a liability. Ongoing payments to contractors are then used to reduce the liability over time and therefore are not recorded against the NOMS budget, as all capital expenditure is recorded in full when the asset is ready for use.

The NOMS resource budget, which includes prison and probation service property budgets, includes an allowance for depreciation on the asset value and cost of capital charge on the asset value and the liability value.

Offenders: Accommodation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how residential accommodation operated under the auspices of ClearSprings is used to house offenders in receipt of a custodial sentence in Peterborough City Council area; and if he will make a statement; [184079]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* ClearSprings and *(b)* Cambridgeshire Probation Service on the allocation of residential accommodation for offenders in the Peterborough City Council area; and if he will make a statement. [184080]

Mr. Hanson: Only those offenders who could be released on Home detention curfew (HDC) who have no suitable address to go to, and following a thorough risk assessment by the prison governor, can be accommodated under the bail accommodation and support service provided by ClearSprings. I advised the hon. Member on 29 January that there are four HDC releases accommodated in Peterborough. The scheme aims to help them move on into more permanent accommodation and to help them into training and/or work.

The National Offender Manager for the East of England determined the accommodation required relative to the location of courts and local establishments. Liaison is ongoing with Cambridgeshire probation with regular meetings and written communications.

Parole: Reoffenders

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison recalls there were in each of the last 12 months; how many of those were due to *(a)* breaches of licence and *(b)* committal of further offences; and if he will make a statement. [182641]

Mr. Hanson: All offenders recalled to custody will have breached one or more of the conditions of their licence (including those on life licence and the home detention curfew scheme). We do not hold a comprehensive breakdown of reasons for recall prior to April 2007. The number of offenders recalled in each of the last 12 months together with the number recalled [illegible]wing a charge for a further offence since April 2007 is provided in the following table.

Month	*Number of offenders recalled*	*Number recalled for further charges*
January 2007	1,234	—
February 2007	1,147	—
March 2007	1,196	—
April 2007	957	246
May 2007	1,025	223
June 2007	1,155	261
July 2007	1,183	272
August 2007	1,214	321
September 2007	907	241
October 2007	1,157	266
November 2007	1,132	287
December 2007	992	172

Prison and Probation Service: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he chose *(a)* Wales and *(b)* London as the first regions in which to introduce the structural changes to the prison and probation service; and what factors he took into account in choosing those regions. [184056]

Maria Eagle: The decision to move to new regional structures for the Prison and Probation Services in London and Wales in April as part of the restructuring of the National Offender Management Service was taken because the operational assessment is that the transition to these new arrangements will be more straightforward in London and Wales than in other regions.

Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, on procurement, whether his Department has a central procurement division. [184069]

Maria Eagle: There are a number of procurement and commercial units serving specific parts of the Ministry of Justice.

As announced on 29 January, a new top structure for the Ministry of Justice will be in place on 1 April, more detailed changes to provide a coherent structure for managing the Department will be implemented over the next few months.

Public Bodies: Freedom of Information

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice or guidance has been given to public authorities on signing contracts with external non-public bodies which have provisions which *(a)* facilitate and *(b)* limit disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [184048]

Mr. Wills: The Secretary of State issues the Code of Practice on the Discharge of Public Authorities' Functions under Part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It was laid before Parliament in November 2004. Part V sets out guidance on freedom of information and confidentiality obligations in contracts.

Further guidance on freedom of information and confidentiality obligations in contracts is available on the Ministry of Justice Freedom of Information and Office of Government Commerce websites.

Public Sector Data Sharing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date his Department's guidance, Public sector data sharing: guidance on the law, was originally published; when it was last updated; and what plans there are to revise or amend it. [184049]

Mr. Wills: Public Sector Data Sharing: Guidance on the Law was published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs in November 2003. This guidance continues to reflect the current position of the data sharing legal framework. It has not been updated although we keep it under continuous review.

Rape: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence length for those convicted of rape was in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [184010]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for the offence of rape, all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

Offence—rape[2]	*Average length of sentence[1]*
2004	93.9
2005	84.7

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for the offence of rape, all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06

Offence—rape[2]	*Average length of sentence[1]*
2006	84.1

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[2] Includes rape of a male and rape of a female under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the return the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice 31 January 2008 Ref: PQ(RN)059-08

Figures for 2007 will be available from autumn 2008.

Reoffenders

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of probation recalls to prison were for serious offences in each month since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [182684]

(2) how many probation recalls to prison were there in each month since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [182685]

(3) how many prison recalls there were in each year since 2000; how many in each year were due to *(a)* breaches of licence and *(b)* committal of further offences; and if he will make a statement. [182687]

Mr. Hanson: Information held centrally gives a breakdown of recalled offenders and a breakdown of offenders who were charged with committing a serious further offence, as defined by the national probation serious further offence review process. To provide a breakdown of offenders who were both charged with a serious further offence and who were subsequently recalled would require a manual trawl of two databases; this would incur disproportionate cost.

The annual figures for the number of offenders who were on licence (including life licence and Home Detention Curfew) and recalled to custody are in the following table. To break this information down into monthly totals would incur disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Number of determinate recalls*
2000-01	3,226
2001-02	5,042
2002-03	9,057

The number of prisoner recalled to custody has increased over recent years. There are several reasons for this increase: nearly all prisoners on licence can now be recalled to prison executively by the Secretary of State. Prior to 1998, prisoners serving less than four years could be recalled only by the courts, a slow and bureaucratic process that was rarely used. The Probation Service has become far more effective in enforcing licence conditions. In 1997 appropriate enforcement action was taken in only a third of cases where the offender brea[illegible] a sentence being served in the community. This figure was over 90 per cent. in 2007; and there is more robust supervision of high risk licensees and better information sharing between police and probation, through multi agency public protection arrangements.

A breakdown of the number of offenders returned to custody following a breach of their licence (including life licence and Home Detention Curfew conditions) in each month since June 2003 is in the table.

Month/year	*Total*
2003	
June	914
July	956
August	869
September	915
October	1,113
November	880
December	987
2004	
January	1,046
February	1,065
March	1,079
April	945
May	941
June	1,007
July	1,029
August	900
September	943
October	915
November	962
December	900
2005	
January	893
February	821
March	817
April	974
May	880
June	1,053
July	1,089
August	1,014
September	616
October	978
November	1,114
December	1,007
2006	
January	949
February	815
March	963
April	757
May	1,028
June	981
July	1,300
August	1,233
September	1,300
October	1,146
November	1,009
December	943
2007	
January	1,234
February	1,147
March	1,196
April	957

Month/year	*Total*
May	1,025
June	1,155
July	1,183
August	1,214
September	907
October	1,157
November	1,132
December	992

All offenders recalled to custody will have breached one or more of the conditions of their licence (including those on life licence and the Home Detention Curfew scheme). We do not hold a comprehensive breakdown of reasons for recall prior to April 2007. The number of offenders recalled in each of the last 12 months together with the number recalled following a charge for a further offence since April 2007 is provided in the table as follows.

As at 2007	*Number of offenders recalled*	*Number recalled for further charges*
January	1,234	—
February	1,147	—
March	1,196	—
April	957	246
May	1,025	223
June	1,155	261
July	1,183	272
August	1,214	321
September	907	241
October	1,157	266
November	1,132	287
December	992	172

Robbery: Children

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were charged or cautioned for robbery in *(a)* the east of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [183385]

Maria Eagle: The number of children aged 10 to 17 given reprimands and final warnings in *(a)* the east of England and *(b)* Suffolk for the years 2002 to 2006 can be found in table 1.

From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures show the total for final warnings and reprimands which make up cautions.

Information on charging is not reported to the Ministry of Justice, but proceeded against data have been provided in table 2.

Table 1: The number of children aged 10 to 17 given reprimands and final warnings for robbery offences in (a) east of England and (b) Suffolk for the years 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

Table 1: The number of children aged 10 to 17 given reprimands and final warnings for robbery offences in (a) east of England and (b) Suffolk for the years 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East region excluding Suffolk	27	35	26	30	37
Suffolk	3	3	4	5	2
Total (i.e. east region including Suffolk)	30	38	30	35	39

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute: Theft Act 1968.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures show the total for final warnings and reprimands which make up cautions.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: The number of children aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for robbery offences in (a) east of England and (b) Suffolk for the years 2002 to 2006[1,2,3]

Region	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East region excl Suffolk	501	414	414	389	442
Suffolk	22	26	32	19	24
Total (i.e. east region including Suffolk)	523	440	446	408	466

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] *Includes the following statute: Theft Act 1968.*

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much revenue has been raised by *(a)* Lancashire county council, *(b)* Ribble Valley borough council, *(c)* Preston city council, *(d)* Blackburn with Darwen borough council, *(e)* South Ribble borough council and *(f)* Lancashire constabulary from speed camera fines in each of the last five years; [182688]

(2) how many fines from speed cameras were *(a)* unpaid and *(b)* overdue in Lancashire county council area at the most recent date for which figures were available. [182690]

Maria Eagle: Available information from 2001 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year.

Information on revenue from speed camera convictions is not collected centrally.

The information collected by my department identifies the number of fixed penalties ordered to be paid and the number and amounts of court fines issued for each offences within each police force area. Fixed penalties that remain unpaid after the statutory period

(28 days in the case of a fixed penalty resulting from unattended camera operation) are registered as fines at one and half times the original fixed penalty amount.

The overall payment rate for fines in general for the period April to December 2007 is 92 per cent. Court systems measure whether all fines are paid. They do not break this down to those that originate from speeding Fixed Penalty Notices, so this information is not available.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] and court imposed fines[2] [3] for speed limit offences detected by camera[4] [5], within Lancashire police force area, 2001-05

Number of offences

	Fixed penalties	*Court proceedings*		
	Number of tickets	*Number of fines*	*Total amount of fines (£)*	*Average fine (£)*
2001	21,400	1,387	140,401	183
2002	88,700	1,663	110,377	66
2003	95,200	4,324	296,181	68
2004	61,400	3,565	256,926	72
2005	61,200[6]	2,288	173,120	76

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.

[2] May include cases where a fixed penalty notice was issued and not paid and referred to court.

[3] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 20 each year.

[4] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.

[5] Data are for all camera types.

[6] £60 for a fixed penalty charge if paid.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences are less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* juvenile and *(b)* young offenders were in each secure accommodation in each month of each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [182638]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables show the number of juveniles and young adults detained in *(a)* each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 30 June of each year since 1997 and *(b)* each Secure Children's Home and Secure Training Centre in England and Wales as at 30 June of each year since 2000.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Juveniles (aged 15-17) in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June each year, by establishment

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total juvenile population[1]	2,666	2,530	2,489	2,461	2,450	2,613	2,253	2,274	2,326	2,440	2,428
Ashfield	0	0	0	237	246	252	173	250	268	297	323
Brinsford	143	168	151	166	180	173	174	179	186	194	147
Cardiff	23	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15
Castington	0	14	43	131	212	181	144	134	131	143	136
Deerbolt	108	117	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dover	44	42	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16	14
Feltham	412	359	364	256	223	307	283	254	227	216	223
Huntercombe	62	107	72	320	244	261	213	289	290	302	295
Hull	33	22	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster Farms	77	40	46	107	108	172	171	180	204	209	220
Northallerton	34	28	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onley	103	170	188	114	200	190	197	0	0	0	0
Stoke Heath	115	105	190	247	235	164	112	173	162	179	177
Thorn Cross	58	42	59	46	43	30	29	36	37	23	25
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	181	187	189	187
Werrington	107	154	95	89	119	117	92	112	121	137	126
Wetherby	214	144	272	246	295	294	298	261	293	279	302

[1] Total includes all establishments; however the breakdown includes only those establishments with 10 or more juveniles in each year (except where there has been a change of function during the period).

Table 2: Young adults[1] in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June each year, by establishment

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total young adult population[2]	8,288	9,020	8,804	9,009	8,604	8,997	8,789	8,514	8,474	8,738	9,455
Altcourse	0	93	89	98	68	110	85	65	83	153	162

Table 2: Young adults[1] in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June each year, by establishment

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Ashfield	0	0	0	91	146	68	137	61	45	64	67
Aylesbury	253	271	330	338	346	347	343	356	424	438	431
Brinsford	413	326	344	306	278	280	267	263	261	262	325
Bullwood Hall	40	62	50	56	75	120	110	110	99	0	0
Chelmsford	55	75	68	133	162	166	170	148	120	142	215
Cardiff	122	71	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colchester	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castington	0	297	274	122	76	151	135	230	231	238	245
Drake Hall	21	14	11	16	29	40	29	28	13	25	12
Doncaster	434	408	457	429	410	345	272	308	290	288	344
Dorchester	31	21	22	28	18	18	19	22	29	31	23
Deerbolt	323	299	399	457	365	473	422	467	417	400	416
Dover	270	272	248	304	185	31	40	31	53	24	32
Eastwood Park	19	40	37	46	48	54	40	49	34	67	65
Exeter	76	76	73	58	49	46	69	51	74	51	70
Forest Bank	0	0	0	241	222	218	232	130	137	155	113
Feltham	595	531	454	497	475	384	365	411	404	402	407
Guys Marsh	123	126	137	132	131	137	131	138	71	72	71
Glen Parva	657	685	693	714	765	785	753	699	772	780	795
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	167	172	173	141	71	67	23	17	18	16	26
Huntercombe	198	243	226	27	72	89	52	63	56	56	71
Moorland Open	175	161	114	120	121	113	122	61	62	54	50
Hindley	0	352	0	384	484	338	376	319	256	267	355
Hull	106	90	105	113	118	104	124	95	100	94	126
Holloway	60	50	70	63	40	57	51	43	65	110	109
Lancaster Farms	444	416	427	356	383	296	295	305	296	306	304
Low Newton	205	167	18	28	37	73	59	57	57	38	20
Lewes	103	66	73	84	70	41	20	27	30	40	29
Moorland	311	345	377	389	386	392	396	347	355	356	357
New Hall	46	67	84	79	83	55	55	55	49	54	58
Northallerton	271	217	230	216	170	223	217	226	211	211	247
Norwich	74	64	135	133	164	161	154	143	165	170	169
Onley	412	420	390	381	388	317	350	225	171	173	227
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	29	45
Portland	348	352	360	410	413	454	432	456	383	466	537
Parc	0	190	243	356	364	452	484	390	393	378	415
Rochester	0	71	90	79	91	167	167	300	386	380	382
Reading	198	201	187	215	221	262	250	260	285	280	257
Stoke Heath	205	477	433	323	290	482	493	477	465	484	488
Swinfen Hall	177	276	262	280	298	300	301	367	354	342	439
Styal	35	33	52	54	61	80	30	29	39	42	59
Thorn Cross	231	208	199	202	192	192	179	226	206	188	230
Woodhill	95	70	63	79	91	116	103	78	82	71	92
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	37	29	34	39
Wetherby	19	139	61	23	44	40	46	32	53	52	56

[1] Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21 year olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population

[2] Total includes all establishments; however the breakdown includes only those establishments with 10 or more young adults in each year (except where there has been a change of function at the establishment during the period).

Table 3: Juvenile and young offenders in Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres 2000-07

		June							
Establishment type	*Establishment*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Secure Children's Homes	Aldine House	5	3	5	6	5	5	5	5
	Atkinson Unit	9	9	12	14	10	9	9	9
	Aycliffe Young People's Centre	27	31	33	33	34	31	26	30
	Barton Moss Secure Unit	14	16	17	18	20	19	20	16
	Briars Hey	3	5	3	6	0	0	0	0
	Clare Lodge	11	10	12	10	0	0	0	0
	Clayfields House	14	13	13	14	12	12	12	11
	Dales House	5	7	9	7	6	0	0	0

Table 3: Juvenile and young offenders in Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres 2000-07

		June							
Establishment type	*Establishment*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Earlswood Secure Unit	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	0
	East Moor	29	29	34	31	34	35	33	31
	Gladstone House	8	5	9	13	16	16	16	9
	Hillside	16	13	16	14	15	14	13	14
	Kyloe House	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	3
	Lansdowne Children's Centre	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Leverton Secure Unit	5	5	5	9	0	0	0	0
	Lincolnshire Secure Unit	4	5	4	7	7	9	7	7
	Market Street	4	7	6	4	0	0	0	0
	Orchard Lodge	11	15	15	22	19	18	17	18
	Red Bank Community Home	25	27	26	28	28	28	27	28
	Redsands Secure Unit	4	3	6	3	0	0	0	0
	St. John's Centre (Tiffield)	9	12	10	13	10	0	0	0
	St Catherines Centre for Girls	1	3	0	3	1	0	0	0
	Stamford House	18	14	20	19	0	0	0	0
	Stoke House	8	10	7	0	0	0	0	0
	Sutton Place	6	7	7	9	8	8	9	7
	Swanwick Lodge	0	7	8	8	10	10	10	7
	Thornbury House	1	7	4	7	6	0	0	0
	Vinney Green	20	16	20	21	20	21	20	19
	Watling House	3	3	6	4	0	0	0	0
SCH total		266	290	313	327	266	238	227	214
Secure Training Centres	Hassockfield STC	40	37	36	40	35	35	38	58
	Medway	41	36	42	66	76	69	64	64
	Oakhill STC	0	0	0	0	1	65	77	57
	Rainsbrook	44	43	57	77	70	75	72	82
STC total		125	116	135	183	182	244	251	261

Note
Data are not available pre 2000

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fuel Poverty: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on reducing fuel poverty in vulnerable households in Easington. [182419]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Regional level estimates of households in fuel poverty are most recently available for 2003 and come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator Dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

The dataset does not attempt to split out vulnerable households from non-vulnerable.

These show that in 2003, there were around 2,660 households (both vulnerable and non-vulnerable) in Easington local authority in fuel poverty.

The only estimate that exists for previous years was for 1996 and is not strictly comparable with the 2003 figure as the geographical modelling was done at a different level. The indicative figure for 1996 was around 10,000 households living in fuel poverty in Easington.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 February 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Regional Ministers: Oral Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to bring forward proposals for regional Ministers to respond to oral questions from hon. Members. [184618]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 133W.

Written Questions

Robert Neill: To ask the Leader of the House if she will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance given to civil servants and Ministers on the use of ministerial corrections; and in what cases an incorrect answer to a written parliamentary question should be corrected via *(a)* a written ministerial statement and *(b)* a ministerial correction. [184009]

Helen Goodman: A copy of the guidance requested was deposited in the Library to coincide with the written ministerial statement issued by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House on 18 October 2007 entitled "Corrections to the Official Report and publication of NDPB letters in Hansard".

The guidance is also available on the Leader's office website:

www.commonsleader.co.uk.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181897]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were between 11 December 2007 and 13 January 2008. [179686]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 11 December 2007 to 13 January 2008, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MoD and Scotland Office. On 11 December and 12 December, I had meetings with several families of troops who died on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. On 12 December I attended the Scotch Whisky Association reception in Dover House. On 14 and 15 December, I hosted a meeting in Edinburgh for the Defence and Foreign Ministers of nations contributing troops to NATO-led operations in southern Afghanistan. On 17 December I discussed the outcome of the Edinburgh meeting with the NATO Secretary General and also met Ross Kemp to discuss his recent visit to Afghanistan. On 18 December I met representatives from Serco Defence, Science and Technology. On 19 December I held a video conference with representatives of the independent panel set up by the Canadian Government to review their future role in Afghanistan (the Manley Panel). On 20 December, I took the salute at a passing out parade at the Army Training Regiment in Bassingbourn. On 3 and 4 January 2008, I visited Brussels for meetings with the UK ambassador to NATO and the UK delegation to the EU. On 5 January, I visited HQ Northern Ireland and was briefed by the General Officer Commanding. On 8 January, I had meetings with the Belgian Ambassador and with Lieutenant General Mohan al-Firaji, Commander of Iraqi security operations in Basra, following which I gave evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee on its inquiry into the future of NATO and European defence. On 10 January, I attended the House for a Defence debate on armed forces personnel. On 11 January, I hosted the pre-Budget report seminar in Edinburgh and visited the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. On 12 January, I attended a meeting of the Executive of the Scottish Labour Party in Stirling.

Royal National Mod Festival

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland in which years since 1997 the Prime Minister sent greetings to the annual Royal National Mod festival. [174324]

David Cairns *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Art and culture are matters devolved to the Scottish Executive and Scottish Ministers. However, the Prime Minister sent a hand-written note, in Gaelic, to the Royal National Mod last year and the Secretary of State for Scotland wrote in 2006.

Weather: Death

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on action to prevent excess winter deaths in Scotland in 2008. [183740]

David Cairns: I have regular discussion with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a range of issues.

In winter 2006-07 we made 1,028,120 winter fuel payments to people in Scotland. Figures are not yet available for this winter, but we expect the numbers to be similar.

In addition, we are currently undertaking a fuel poverty partnership pilot with the energy industry which aims to increase the uptake of energy efficiency measures. The pilot is targeting 250,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit throughout Great Britain, including 16,500 pensioners in Scotland alone.

In the event of sustained freezing temperatures, eligible customers, generally those in receipt of income-related benefits, may be entitled to cold weather payments.

WALES

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183879]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not have staff catering facilities. Catering for functions and meetings in London and Cardiff includes, where possible and consistent with value for money, a mixture of fair trade or locally sourced produce.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the report of the Saville Inquiry to be published. [183896]

Mr. Woodward: The Tribunal are currently engaged in compiling their final report. The Tribunal have advised that it is not possible at this stage to give a precise indication of when the report will be submitted to me, due to the complexity and volume of evidence with which they are dealing. We are informed that the submission of the report is not imminent, and that recent media speculation that the report will be concluded in May 2008 has no basis in fact.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of the Bloody Sunday inquiry to the public purse has been to date; when he expects the inquiry's final report to be published; and if he will make a statement. [183641]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of the Saville Inquiry is £181.2 million (as of December 2007).

The Tribunal are currently engaged in compiling their final report. The Tribunal have advised that it is not possible at this stage to give a precise indication of when the report will be submitted to me, due to the complexity and volume of evidence with which they are dealing. We are informed that the submission of the report is not imminent, and that recent media speculation that the report will be concluded in May 2008 has no basis in fact.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183353]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has no record of any fines being paid by the Department. It is the Department's policy not to pay parking ticket or speeding fines issued to staff while using its vehicles.

We are aware that one fixed penalty notice was issued and the fine of £60 was paid by the driver.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average cost of indigenous deep-mined coal per tonne in *(a)* 1982, *(b)* 1992 and *(c)* 2007. [183724]

Malcolm Wicks: According to British Coal records, the average operating cost per tonne of indigenous deep mined coal was £40.94 in 1982-83 and £38.33 in 1992-93.

Following privatisation in 1994, equivalent information has not been collected centrally.

Nevertheless, based on a published average operating cost of 1.56p per gigajoule for mines representing 87 per cent. of UK deep mine production in that year, it is estimated that in 2006 (the latest year for which this information is available) the operating cost of larger deep mines was in the order of £37.44 per tonne before exceptional items.

Internet: Fraud

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the extent of personal financial losses by consumers as a result of responses to fraudulent phishing emails which purport to originate from individual banks and financial service providers in each of the last five years; [183476]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of fraudulent and spam phishing emails, which purported to originate from individual banks and financial service providers, sent to email addresses in the .uk domain in the last 12 months. [183477]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Figures collated by APACS (the UK Payments Association) show that in 2006 there were 14,156 phishing incidents.

APACS estimate that total losses for online banking fraud, which would include phishing along with other scams such as Trojans, amounted to £33.5 million in 2006. In many cases however these losses would be born by the financial institution rather than the consumer. In practice banks normally reimburse cardholders who have been genuine victims of online card fraud and have not been negligent with their card details, or acted fraudulently themselves.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for staff of the Commission in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the Commission's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181538]

Mr. Alan Williams: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Public Accounts Commission.

There has been no expenditure by the Commission on travel by its staff in the last 10 years.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much work-based learning is required in a programme-led apprenticeship; and if he will make a statement. [184039]

Mr. Lammy: A Programme-led Apprenticeship (PLA) will deliver job skills, transferable skills and competence training and practice in an off-the-job setting prior to the apprentice moving into employment. The learner must spend a significant period of their learning in a work-based environment in employment in order to complete a full Apprenticeship.

A PLA is by definition linked to an Apprenticeship, the content of which is designed by the relevant Sector Skills Council to meet a sector's need. However, a PLA is not a full Apprenticeship. PLAs are not included in published Apprenticeship statistics and a young person has to be employed before they are counted.

Further Education: Autism

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what arrangements his Department *(a)* has in place and *(b)* will have in place if the Education and Skills Bill is enacted to ensure the continuity of education and skills services provided to children with autism and Asperger's Syndrome as they make the transition to adulthood. [183399]

Mr. Lammy: This Government are committed to improving provision and services for children and young people on the Autistic Disorder Spectrum. My Department is working closely with the Learning and Skills Council to identify existing provision and what needs to be put in place to ensure high quality and sufficiency to ensure continuity. All Learning and Skills Council Regions have completed analyses to identify current provision for all learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those on the Autistic Disorder Spectrum, and are developing plans for improving provision.

We are also working closely with the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Work and Pensions on a raft of measures to improve provision and the transition to adulthood including those on the autistic disorder spectrum. These measures will anticipate the impact of changes needed over the next few years including the raising of the participation age as envisaged in the Education and Skills Bill.

Measures include work on a common funding approach, plans for individual budgets, improved planning and commissioning and curriculum improvements. At the heart of these measures is greatly increased and effective partnership working as set out in the cross government strategy on learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities 'Progression through Partnership' published last year.

A key partnership is the one we have established with the Autism Education Trust launched in November 2007 which will advise us on improvements needed in provision and work force development. We also expect to launch two key projects this year which will also feature autism—"Getting a Life" focusing on what works for people with learning disabilities and the "Transition Support Programme" part of Aiming High for Disabled People.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will rank UK universities in order of in-take of state school students as a percentage of total in-take in each of the last five years. [179503]

Bill Rammell: The information is shown in the following table. The figures show proportions of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses at each higher education institution, who are from state schools over the period 2001/02 to 2005/06. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in 2008.

There has been an overall increase in proportions of state school entrants across the whole of the higher education sector since the PIs were introduced in 1997. In fact the latest available figure of 86.9 per cent., for young full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions in 2005/06, is the highest ever.

This information is taken from the annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education, which are currently published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

For each institution, the state school proportion is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities.

The table includes the numbers of young entrants to each institution. From this it is clear that the number of students at each institution varies widely, and some have less than 100 students. Figures based on small numbers such as these should be treated with care.

Table 5: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses who were from state schools, 2005/06

	Number of entrants	*Percentage from state schools or colleges*	*Bench-mark (percentage)*
Total UK	—	87.4	—
Wimbledon School of Art	125	100.0	98.7
UHI Millennium Institute	80	100.0	93.5
St. Mary's University College	230	100.0	94.3

Table 5: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses who were from state schools, 2005/06

	Number of entrants	*Percentage from state schools or colleges*	*Bench-mark (percentage)*
Stranmillis University College	240	100.0	94.3
University of Ulster	4,065	99.9	92.6
University of Bedfordshire	685	99.6	96.3
Bishop Grosseteste College	235	99.6	93.7
The Queen's University of Belfast	3,325	99.5	84.3
University of Derby	1,695	99.4	94.9
Trinity College, Carmarthen	350	99.4	94.9
Newman College of Higher Education	330	99.3	94.7
The University of Bolton	570	99.2	95.7
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	265	99.2	94.9
The University of Wales, Newport	715	99.2	96.1
The University of Wolverhampton	2,490	99.0	95.4
The University of East London	1,260	98.7	95.7
Norwich School of Art and Design	305	98.7	94.3
The University of Teesside	1,500	98.5	94.8
Middlesex University	2,370	98.2	95.4
University of Glamorgan	1,760	98.2	94.3
Bell College	345	98.2	94.0
Anglia Ruskin University	1,330	98.1	94.7
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	435	98.0	97.3
Edge Hill University	1,320	98.0	94.3
London South Bank University	920	98.0	95.0
St. Martin's College	890	98.0	93.3
The University of Paisley	1,045	98.0	91.0
The North-East Wales Institute of Higher Education	360	97.9	95.5
The University of Chichester	730	97.8	94.0
Liverpool Hope University	1,180	97.8	94.9
Swansea Institute of Higher Education	585	97.8	95.5
Staffordshire University	1,940	97.7	93.8
The University of Central Lancashire	3,255	97.6	93.2
University College Falmouth	565	97.5	96.8
London Metropolitan University	2,015	97.5	94.1
University of Chester	1,805	97.4	91.7
University of Hertfordshire	3,650	97.4	93.8
The University of Sunderland	1,585	97.4	94.6
The University of Northampton	1,370	97.3	94.4
The University of Greenwich	1,825	97.2	94.4
University of Abertay Dundee	720	97.2	92.4
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	990	97.1	95.5
Coventry University	2,485	97.1	93.3
University of Central England in Birmingham	2,350	97.0	93.4
The University of Huddersfield	2,700	97.0	93.5
The University of Lincoln	2,360	96.9	92.6
University of Worcester	680	96.8	93.9
The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone, Rochester	1,305	96.7	97.1
The University of Salford	2,270	96.7	92.0
De Montfort University	3,760	96.6	93.5
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	175	96.6	97.3
Glasgow Caledonian University	2,220	96.6	89.8
Canterbury Christ Church University	1,480	96.3	93.1
Thames Valley University	855	96.2	96.3
Southampton Solent University	2,080	96.0	94.4
The University of Winchester	995	96.0	92.4
Liverpool John Moores University	3,665	95.6	90.7
College of St. Mark and St. John	470	95.5	94.9
Sheffield Hallam University	4,150	95.5	91.1
Bath Spa University	960	95.4	94.0
Kingston University	3,380	95.0	92.6
Writtle College	140	94.9	92.1
The University of Westminster	2,640	94.7	93.2
St. Mary's College	820	94.5	93.5
Trinity and All Saints College	600	94.4	93.2
The University of Essex	1,440	94.3	87.7
University of Gloucestershire	1,430	94.3	93.0
University of the Arts, London	1,440	94.3	91.8
York St John University	1,075	94.3	91.9
The Manchester Metropolitan University	6,020	94.0	91.4
Roehampton University	1,660	94.0	93.0
Napier University	1,055	94.0	91.3
University of Wales, Bangor	1,485	93.9	89.7
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	370	93.8	94.2
The University of Bradford	1,500	93.8	92.0
The University of Portsmouth	3,095	93.8	90.5
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	1,465	93.8	93.0
Bournemouth University	2,270	93.5	91.6
Leeds Metropolitan University	3,980	93.5	92.7
The Robert Gordon University	1,160	93.5	88.3
Brunel University	2,265	93.3	90.5
The University of Plymouth	3,100	93.0	90.1
The University of Brighton	2,325	92.7	90.6
The University of Wales, Lampeter	205	92.7	88.7
University of Wales, Aberystwyth	1,855	92.6	88.4
The University of Hull	2,315	92.5	88.0
The University of Strathclyde	2,570	92.5	84.0
University of Wales, Swansea	2,155	92.4	88.3
Dartington College of Arts	170	92.2	93.8
The University of Dundee	1,630	92.2	84.8
The University of Keele	1,675	92.1	85.6
Heriot-Watt University	995	92.1	86.7
Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh	645	91.9	92.0
The Nottingham Trent University	4,110	91.8	90.7
Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	125	91.8	93.1
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	130	91.7	94.5
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	3,510	91.7	90.4
The University of Stirling	1,170	91.7	86.2
The University of Kent	2,595	90.9	86.6
The University of Lancaster	2,260	90.6	82.8
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	135	89.2	95.7
Aston University	1,645	89.0	86.8
Rose Bruford College	160	88.9	92.8
The University of Surrey	1,225	88.6	86.8
University of the West of England, Bristol	4,120	88.3	90.8
Goldsmiths College	895	88.0	88.4
The University of Leicester	1,855	87.9	81.5

Table 5: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses who were from state schools, 2005/06

	Number of entrants	*Percentage from state schools or colleges*	*Bench-mark (percentage)*
Central School of Speech and Drama	205	87.7	92.5
The University of East Anglia	1,935	86.5	82.8
The University of Liverpool	3,495	86.4	82.2
Leeds College of Music	200	86.3	90.1
City University	1,315	85.9	89.0
The University of Glasgow	3,190	85.7	80.9
The University of Sussex	1,785	84.8	81.0
Edinburgh College of Art	225	84.8	94.8
Glasgow School of Art	215	84.6	86.6
The University of Aberdeen	1,825	84.0	84.3
Cardiff University	3,765	83.9	82.6
The University of Sheffield	4,110	83.8	79.7
Queen Mary and Westfield College	2,040	83.6	84.0
The University of Reading	2,210	83.6	83.3
Harper Adams University College	260	83.1	86.7
Loughborough University	2,920	82.9	86.1
The School of Pharmacy	125	82.8	85.9
The University of Southampton	2,980	82.7	81.5
University of London (Institutes and activities)	30	82.1	75.7
The University of York	1,885	77.9	78.3
The University of Manchester	5,515	77.7	80.2
St. George's Hospital Medical School	265	77.1	75.7
The University of Birmingham	4,165	76.5	80.6
The Royal Veterinary College	275	76.3	71.0
The University of Warwick	2,310	76.0	78.3
The University of Bath	1,655	75.9	80.6
Trinity Laban	120	75.0	94.2
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	1,210	74.7	81.4
The University of Leeds	5,835	74.2	81.4
The University of Exeter	2,460	72.5	81.0
Oxford Brookes University	2,330	71.3	87.9
King's College London	2,155	70.3	79.0
The School of Oriental and African Studies	420	70.1	78.5
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	3,710	68.4	80.3
The University of Nottingham	4,200	66.1	78.6
The University of Edinburgh	3,540	65.5	78.6
The University of Bristol	2,845	65.1	77.0
University College London	2,080	62.4	76.6
University of Durham	3,195	61.8	78.9
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	1,295	61.3	77.3
The University of St Andrews	1,100	60.9	77.3
London School of Economics and Political Science	575	59.4	76.0
The University of Oxford	2,790	53.7	75.4
Royal Academy of Music	45	47.7	89.8
Courtauld Institute of Art	40	42.9	72.6
Royal Agricultural College	150	42.8	86.4
The University of Cambridge[1]	—	—	—
Royal College of Music[1]	65	—	—
Royal Northern College of Music[1]	110	—	—

[1] 2005/06 figures are not available for these institutions

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of people who have started training under Train to Gain successfully completed a course in the last period for which figures are available. [184036]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is a service specifically designed to give employers access to the advice and support they need to help them identify and then meet the skills their businesses need to succeed. It was launched in April 2006. Up until November 2007, the latest period for which figures are available, the Train to Gain service reports that 317,010 people have started a programme of learning and 153,300 have thus far successfully completed their learning activity, including over 131,00 full level 2s. However it would be misleading to simply use these output measures to calculate a percentage or success rate because many learners are still working to complete their course and new people are starting learning programmes through Train to Gain every day. DIUS and LSC officials are working to establish a sound methodology to enable a true success rate to be derived once sufficient data have been collected. This will be published as soon as it becomes available.

Vocational Training: Private Sector

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to ensure skills accreditation gained from training programmes run by private sector businesses in England are recognised in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales. [184495]

Mr. Lammy: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is currently piloting approaches to accrediting the training of employers in England. QCA will advise Ministers of the best way forward in spring 2008 and this will inform discussion with Ministers of the Devolved Administrations on implementing the proposals more widely.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Building Contracts

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how the Commission defines building projects which are *(a)* small works, *(b)* minor works, *(c)* standard contracts and *(d)* other categories. [183941]

Nick Harvey: Building projects are defined as follows: less than £25,000—small works; £25,000 to £250,000—minor projects; greater than £250,000—major projects. All work is carried out under contracts. These are grouped as: lump sum contracts; consultants' commission contracts; term contracts; and jobbing contracts. Lump sum contracts are let with the main contractor for a specific project. Consultants' commissions may be let for a specific project, though it is more likely that a consultant from a framework agreement would be used. Framework agreements can be let for any of the types of contract mentioned and have been let so far mainly for consultancies such as project management, architecture, engineering and quantity surveying. Special term contracts are let for planned maintenance such as lifts or grounds maintenance. Measured term contracts are let for carrying out small electrical, mechanical or building works. Jobbing contracts are used for one-off small works.

Visitor Reception Building

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend West (Mr. Amess) of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W on the Parliament Visitors' Centre, how much of the additional cost is due to *(a)* variations to the brief and *(b)* contractors' additional preliminaries; when the contract was finally handed over to the House; and how many of the additional weeks required have been due to (i) contractors' delays, (ii) exceptional inclement weather and (iii) client requirements or delays. [183940]

Nick Harvey: The building was handed over to both Houses on 20 December 2007. A review is being undertaken on behalf of the House of Commons Commission on the management of the project. The review will include the issues raised by the hon. Member. Once the review has been considered by the Commission I will be able to comment further.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Family Support

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support the Government provide for families of service personnel who are on operational duty. [180996]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The single services each maintain extensive welfare support networks for families which include welfare staff at unit level, service welfare agencies and specialist support organisations such as Families Federations. There are also online information portals, discussion forums and HIVE information centres. These are available at all times but retain a strong focus on providing support when the service person is deployed.

The communication element of the Deployment Welfare Package and various allowances paid to deployed personnel also benefit families and allow them to keep in regular touch with the deployed family members. In addition, the immediate family of accompanied regular service personnel deployed on operations receive assisted travel to benefit from the support of other family members. The services publish handbooks, such as the army "Guide for Families of Regular Personnel Deployed on Operations", and make welfare funds available for commanders to deliver local solutions over and above what is routinely available. These include internet access, briefings and hardship grants.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel received specialist pay for *(a)* flying, *(b)* diving, *(c)* submarine, *(d)* nuclear propulsion, *(e)* submarine escape tank training, *(f)* hydrographics, *(g)* mountain leadership, *(h)* parachutes and *(i)* high altitude parachutes in each year since 1997. [181206]

Derek Twigg: The information required from 1997 to 2000 is not held centrally and the detailed breakdown requested for 2001 to 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows the total number of personnel in each service in receipt of specialist pay since 2001.

	Army	*Navy*	*RAF*	*Total*
2007	3,859	7,328	4,636	15,823
2006	4,514	6,890	4,362	15,766
2005	6.161	6,872	4,596	17,629
2004	5,334	6,871	4,549	16,754
2003	5.772	6,232	4,685	16,689
2002	4,687	5,613	4,450	14,750
2001	4,772	6,651	4,187	15,610

Armed Forces: Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government take to ensure the education of army personnel's children is taken into account when deciding to move personnel *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* overseas. [180995]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The MOD offers a number of ways to help parents ensure that their children's education does not suffer as a result of family moves. Although operational requirements come first, the Service Assigning Authorities make every effort to take into account individual preferences for location and timing, especially in relation to the school calendar. Where assignments fall during a key educational stage, service personnel may retain family accommodation at the current location in order to provide continuity of schooling.

Our well regarded Children's Education Advisory Service offers advice on all educational matters and direct assistance on admissions appeals and special educational needs matters. For families moving to or within England, the schools Admissions Code makes consideration of the needs of service children a statutory requirement. For those moving overseas, educational arrangements are made through the Service Children's Education (SCE) Agency.

Continuity of education allowance is available to Service families that decide that the continuity offered by boarding schools is the best option for their children.

Army: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target is for recruitment of infantry soldiers over the next 12 months. [183134]

Derek Twigg: The target for the recruitment of infantry soldiers for the financial year 2008-09 is 5,336.

Baha Mousa

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1403W, on Baha Mousa, if he will now *(a)* make a public apology for the death of Baha Mousa in British custody and *(b)* make a statement about the circumstances of Baha Mousa's death. [184550]

Des Browne: In my answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1403W, I said that the death of Mr. Mousa was a matter of deep regret to the Ministry of Defence. As I explained in my written ministerial statement of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 66WS, the next step is to consider what form any future inquiry should take. I have agreed to receive representations from the legal representatives of Mr. Mousa's family and I will make a further statement when a decision has been made.

Berlin Airlift

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. [184299]

Derek Twigg: We are in contact with the Berlin Airlift Association and are beginning discussions with them on how we can contribute to events to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Berlin Airlift in 2009. I expect to be able to provide further details to the House towards the end of this year.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182993]

Derek Twigg: Details of all departmental expenditure on advertising cannot be provided for all the years sought or in the format requested because the information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The combined departmental costs on armed forces recruitment advertising and veterans awareness advertising since financial year 2003-04 were as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*	*Percentage of defence expenditure*
2003-04	16.648	0.05
2004-05	26.195	0.08
2005-06	29.256	0.09
2006-07	32.483	0.10

Civilian staff are recruited locally; the information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It should be noted that the above figures take no account of departmental marketing costs.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of freedom of information requests received by his Department since the entry into force of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 originated from *(a)* parliamentarians, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* academies and *(d)* media sources. [180192]

Derek Twigg: The total number of freedom of information requests received by the Department since the Act came into force in 2005, until the end of September 2007, is 10,104. Of these requests, and where the occupation of the applicant was stated:

1.6 per cent. were received from parliamentarians;

9 per cent. from business;

4.4 per cent. from academics and

17.8 per cent. from media sources.

Nurseries

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many crèches there were on Ministry of Defence estates *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas at the most recent date for which figures are available. [182322]

Derek Twigg: Although the exact information requested is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate, there are at least 60 crèches in the UK, and more than 50 overseas.

Some of these are financed by the Department, while privately financed facilities exist elsewhere.

Olympic Games 2012: Aldershot

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the rescheduling of work at Aldershot military barracks for the British Olympic shooting team will affect the timescale for work to be carried out on other units and barracks. [183161]

Derek Twigg: The capital works being undertaken at Aldershot Garrison are not for the benefit of the British Olympic Association but for service personnel. The rescheduling of the programme for new single living accommodation means that the new accommodation will be available for use by soldiers some three months early. This work is already planned to be completed by 2012 and advancing it slightly will have no adverse effect on works at Aldershot, or elsewhere.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the official ministerial residence of 1 Carlton Gardens became unoccupied following the departure from it of the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett). [178888]

Meg Munn: 1 Carlton Gardens became unoccupied on 16 October 2007.

Afghanistan: Administration of Justice

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Italian counterpart in his capacity under Italy's role as lead nation for justice reform in Afghanistan on the recent death sentence handed down to Sayed Pervez Kambaksh in Afghanistan. [184827]

Dr. Howells: Our Embassy in Kabul has regular contact with Italian counterparts with regard to justice issues, notably because they are the G8 lead partner for justice reform. In this particular case, the UK and Italy have agreed to work through EU and UN channels.

Afghanistan: Diplomatic Relations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he was informed in advance of the decision by the Afghan Government to expel a British diplomat working for the UN and an Irish diplomat working for the EU. [183898]

Dr. Howells: Michael Semple, an Irish national working for the EU, and Mervyn Patterson, a British national working for the UN, left Afghanistan on 27 December 2007, having been asked to do so 48 hours earlier by the Government of Afghanistan. The Afghan Foreign Minister held a meeting to inform a number of European embassies, including our embassy in Kabul, of this decision on 25 December 2007.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress the counter narcotics police of Afghanistan, the Afghan special narcotics force and the counter narcotics criminal justice task force are making in tackling the production and distribution of drugs in Afghanistan. [183588]

Dr. Howells: From January to October 2007, mobile detection teams—part of the counter narcotics police of Afghanistan—made 135 separate seizures, which totalled 1,916 kilograms of opium, 2,629 kilograms of cannabis, 67 kilograms of diamorphine and 4,068 kilograms of precursor chemicals. A recent operation at Kabul airport led to the arrest of a significant target who was sentenced to life imprisonment. In 2007, the criminal justice task force secured 278 narcotics convictions.

The Afghan special narcotics Force (ASNF) continues to make progress in tackling drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan. In 2007 the ASNF undertook 42 operations, including in support of UK forces in Musa Qala. Activity in 2007 led to 15 detentions and the seizure of 11,500 kilograms of opiates and 254 kilograms of heroin. The ASNF is also able to target and destroy narcotics laboratories, having a disruptive effect on key trafficking networks. Its capability continues to grow and is capable of deployment throughout Afghanistan.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding for anti-narcotics activity in Afghanistan the UK is providing in 2007-08; and what progress is being made by the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund. [183589]

Dr. Howells: The Afghan drugs interdepartmental unit (ADIDU) is located in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), with officials from the FCO, the Department for International Development (DFID), the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs. ADIDU is providing £43.8 million in direct funding for its counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan in 2007-08. Separately, DFID expects to spend £34 million in 2007/08 on developing rural livelihoods.

The Counter Narcotics Trust Fund's (CNTF) focus has shifted from funding individual projects generated in Kabul to financing cohesive counter-narcotics programmes that meet provincial needs and reflect local ownership. Disbursements from the CNTF to relevant line ministries, to fund the counter narcotics components of provincial development plans, are expected to begin within the next two months. There is still a risk of low disbursement from the line ministry or at the provincial level, but our embassy in Kabul's strengthening counter-narcotics institution project is working with the CNTF and UN agencies to support skills building in relevant institutions to ensure disbursement rates improve.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hectares of poppies were grown in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; and how many (i) tonnes of opium were seized, (ii) people were arrested and (iii) facilities were destroyed in each of these years. [183590]

Dr. Howells: The figures provided in the following table are based on operations conducted by the Afghan special narcotics forces and the counter narcotics police of Afghanistan.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Opium poppy cultivation—hectares (from United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime Annual Opium Surveys)	104,000	165,000	193,000
Opium seized (tonnes)	Opiates: 78.61 Heroin: 3.19	Opiates: 55.41 Heroin: 5.73	Opiates: 42.35 Heroin: 2.88
People arrested	317	707	967
Facilities destroyed	321	228	318

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what co-ordination of anti-narcotics policy is taking place between the Afghan Government, the US Operation Enduring Freedom military HQ Kabul, NATO Operations Plan and the British embassy drugs team in Kabul. [183592]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Afghanistan leads on coordinating and implementing counter-narcotics strategy in Afghanistan. The UK, as Afghanistan's G8 partner nation on counter narcotics, works extremely closely with the Afghan Government on its counter-narcotics policy. Our embassy in Kabul's counter narcotics team conducts capacity-building work within the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics and helps implement the Afghan Government's national drug control strategy nationwide. In addition, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops are mandated to provide support to Afghan-led counter narcotics operations. Head Quarters-International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) co-ordinates the NATO forces operations and deconflicts them from Operation Enduring Freedom activities. The Government of Afghanistan chairs counter-narcotics meetings which the UK and US embassies, and ISAF attend.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the Afghan national drugs control strategy has changed since it was launched by President Karzai in January 2006; what the UK's current role in the strategy is; and whether Her Majesty's ambassador has observer status on the Afghan Cabinet Sub-Committee on Counter Narcotics. [183593]

Dr. Howells: The UK funded a review of the Afghan Government's national drugs control strategy (NDCS) and the institutional framework supporting it in the summer of 2007. The review recommended a greater focus on implementation of the NDCS in the provinces. As a result, the Afghan Government has developed, with UK support, a new provincial strategy. It centres on giving provinces responsibility for devising their own counter-narcotics plans, in support of national counter-narcotics priorities. This provincial approach conforms to the NDCS and ensures counter narcotics will be better embedded into the full range of Afghan Government development and rule of law initiatives.

The UK's role in the strategy is to support the Afghan Government to implement its NDCS, and lobby for continued and increased international assistance. Our ambassador in Kabul has observer status on the Afghan Cabinet Sub-Committee on Counter Narcotics.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which date he informed President Karzai or the Afghan Government that Lord Ashdown was being considered for a role by NATO. [183844]

Dr. Howells: Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon was not proposed for any North Atlantic Treaty Organization role. He was proposed by the United States of America for appointment by the UN Secretary-General as his Special Representative in Afghanistan.

Diplomatic Service: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the salary band is of a grade one locally engaged commercial officer. [184886]

Meg Munn: Salaries for local staff, including grade one commercial officers, are governed by HM Treasury rules. These determine that salaries are set at levels sufficient to recruit, retain and motivate, with respect to market forces in the country in which they are employed.

This information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

European Council: Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the order of procedure to be followed when the Heads of Government and the President of the European Council attend the same function; and if he will make a statement. [184448]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Article 1(16)(6) of the Treaty of Lisbon sets out the broad role of the President of the European Council. There have not yet been discussions on the detail.

European External Action Service

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the staff complement required by the proposed European external action service, broken down by grade; and what estimate he has made of the organisation's likely total annual salary costs. [184449]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Lisbon Treaty provides for a European External Action Service (EEAS) which will bring together staff currently working on external issues in the European Council Secretariat and the European Commission, along with secondees from EU member states.

There have not yet been any discussions on the detailed organisation and functioning of the EEAS.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* representations he has received on the duties and responsibilities of the proposed European external action service. [184450]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Lisbon Treaty provides for a European External Action Service (EEAS) which will bring together staff currently working on external issues in the European Council Secretariat and the European Commission, along with secondees from EU member states.

The function of the EEAS will be to support the new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, whose responsibilities are defined in the Lisbon Treaty.

European Union: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* locally-engaged staff were employed by the UK Permanent Representation to the European Union in each of the last 10 years. [183959]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The number of staff working at the Office of our Permanent Representative to the European Union for the past three years is set out in the table as follows.

January	*UK based*	*Locally engaged*
2006[1]	118	53
2007	91	52
2008	95	55

[1] The figure for 2006 includes temporary reinforcements for the UK Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2005.

To compile data on the staffing levels at our Permanent Representation to the EU, prior to 2005-06 would incur disproportionate costs.

Falkland Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* UK relations with Argentina and *(b)* the situation in the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [184990]

Dr. Howells: The UK values its relationship with Argentina as an important international partner. We have a close and productive relationship on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues, including human rights, sustainable development and counter-proliferation. We are keen to establish a constructive relationship with the new Argentine Government on South Atlantic issues and believe we have much to gain from working together.

However the Argentine sovereignty claim to the Falkland Islands casts a shadow over the bilateral relationship. The UK has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. We support the Falkland Islanders' right of self-determination and will not discuss sovereignty unless and until they so wish. The UK has good relations with the Falkland Islands' Government, which has continued to develop and diversify its economy over recent years, particularly in the areas of fisheries, renewable energy and tourism. My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, visited the Islands from 3 to 5 January and took the opportunity to assure the Falkland Islands Government of the Government's commitment to their self-determination and economic development.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives he has set for the UK's participation in the Norwegian initiative on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. [184404]

Dr. Howells: The United Kingdom is using its participation in the Norwegian "Seven Country Initiative", in parallel with a wide range of other bilateral and multilateral activity, to build international consensus for strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The United Kingdom will take part in a Seminar on Nuclear Disarmament to be hosted by the Government of Norway in Oslo on 26-27 February 2008.

Pacific Islands: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the level of UK diplomatic representation is in each of the Pacific Island countries. [184704]

Meg Munn: The UK has full, sovereign diplomatic representation in three Pacific Island countries: Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The other Pacific Island countries are accredited to our posts in Fiji, the Philippines and New Zealand. Our High Commissions in Canberra and Wellington support the Pacific network.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on child maintenance, what plans there are for new IT systems for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; what steps he plans to take to monitor the effective implementation of such systems; and if he will make a statement; [173589]

(2) what plans he has to *(a)* involve and *(b)* consult staff employed by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the commissioning and monitoring process for new IT systems. [173592]

Mr. Plaskitt: Subject to parliamentary approval, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will become operational in 2008. As a non-departmental public body, it will be for the Commission to determine whether to introduce new IT systems. Should it decide to introduce a new IT system, we will of course wish to keep track of progress towards its successful delivery through the arrangements we will put in place to monitor the performance of the Commission.

Community Care: Prisoners Release

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people leaving Armley Prison received a community care grant in each year since 1997. [183140]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus employment and benefit surgeries in prisons, including Armley Prison, focus on offenders' needs both upon induction and pre-release from prison. Jobcentre Plus advisers run the surgeries, working alongside Prison Service and other agency staff. The advisers also provide prisoners with information about welfare benefits and social fund community care grants and loans in order to reduce the finance gap prisoners can face on release.

Incapacity Benefit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each region claiming incapacity benefits experienced *(a)* alcoholism, *(b)* drug abuse, *(c)* depression and *(d)* other long-term mental conditions and problems in each year since 2002; and what proportion of total incapacity benefits claimants each category represented in each region. [181058]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal For 25 Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the intensive activity period stage (self employment option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173901]

(2) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the intensive activity period stage (basic skills and employability training option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173902]

(3) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the intensive activity period stage (education and training opportunities option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, (*e*) benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173903]

(4) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the Intensive Activity Period stage (training option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173904]

(5) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the Intensive Activity Period stage (other option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173905]

(6) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the pre-gateway stage went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (i) two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme for which information is available in each year since 1997; [173920]

(7) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the gateway stage went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and (i) off benefits unknown destination within *(i)* two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme for which information is available in each year since 1997; [173921]

(8) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the intensive activity period stage went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (i) two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme for which information is available in each year since 1997; [173922]

(9) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the intensive activity period stage (work experience/placement option) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (i) two weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173925]

(10) how many New Deal for 25 plus (ND25+) participants who left the ND25+ at the follow through stage whose last option was *(a)* employment, *(b)* basic skills and employability training, *(c)* self-employment, *(d)* education and training opportunities and *(e)* work experience/placements went into (i) employment, (ii) employment and benefits, (iii) benefits—jobseeker's allowance, (iv) benefits—income support, (v) benefits—incapacity benefit, (vi) benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, (vii) benefits—other/unknown benefits, (viii) other known destination and (ix) off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [173926]

Mr. Timms: The available requested information has been placed in the Library.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people participated in the New Deal for 25 plus in the *(a)* pre-gateway, *(b)* gateway, *(c)* intensive activity period (i) employment, (ii) basic employability and skills training, (iii) self-employment, (iv) educational and training opportunities, (v) work experience/placements, (vi) training, (vii) other options and *(d)* follow through in each year since 1997; [173897]

(2) how many people participated in the New Deal for Young People in the *(a)* pre-gateway, *(b)* gateway, *(c)* voluntary sector option, *(d)* environmental taskforce option, *(e)* full-time education and training option, *(f)* employment option and *(g)* follow-through stage in each year since 1997. [173899]

Mr. Timms: The available information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* on-flow and origin, *(b)* off-flow and destination and *(c)* stock figures for people participating in (i) the New Deal for over-50s, (ii) the New Deal for Lone Parents, (iii) the New Deal for Young People, (iv) the New Deal for over-25s, (v) the New Deal for Disabled People, (vi) the New Deal for Partners, (vii) Pathways to Work Pilot schemes, (viii) employment zones and (ix) Local Employment Partnerships were in each of the last 36 months for which figures are available. [162393]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Local employment partnerships (LEPs) are not a programme in which people participate; they are an agreement between employers and Jobcentre Plus to work together to enable employers to recruit in ways which give a fair chance to applicants from the most disadvantaged groups of jobless people. Information on the on-flow and origin, off-flow and destination, and stock figures for people participating in LEPs is thus not available.

The available remaining requested information has been placed in the Library.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of employers who do not offer occupational pension schemes. [175054]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented as follows:

Provision of occupational pension scheme by size of firm

Percentage

Number of employees in firm	*Occupational scheme*	*Any provision*
1-4	5	31
5-12	6	55
13-19	13	82
20-49	8	90
50-99	20	94
100-499	21	96
500 plus	62	96
All	6	44
All 5 or more	8	65

Notes:

1. Pension provision includes occupational schemes, Group Personal Pensions, Stakeholder Pensions (including schemes with no members and/or no contributions) and firms that contribute to Personal Pensions.

2. All figures are estimates taken from the Employers' Pension Provision Survey. 2005 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is private sector employers in Great Britain.

3. Stakeholder pensions were introduced in April 2001, and from October 2001 employers with five or more employees and no other pension provision were required to provide access to Stakeholder pensions.

Pension Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of savings disregard was when pension credit was first introduced; what its level was at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what its level would be if the disregard had been revised in line with *(a)* prices and *(b)* earnings. [174169]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Pension credit was introduced in October 2003.

The capital disregard at that time was £6,000 for a single pensioner or a pensioner couple and £10,000 for a pensioner living in a care home.

Had the disregard been up-rated by prices, the £6,000 capital disregard would now be set at £6,766 and the £10,000 disregard would be set at £11,277.

Had the disregard been up-rated by earnings, the £6,000 capital disregard would be set at £7,012 and the £10,000 disregard would be set at £11,687.

There is no requirement in social security legislation to review the value of the capital disregards in income-related benefits in the same way that there is for weekly benefit amounts. The capital disregards are not, therefore, routinely up-rated.

At least 80 per cent. of pension credit recipients have less than £6,000 capital. So any changes would not benefit the majority of existing recipients or those currently eligible (around 80 per cent. of those eligible for pension credit also have capital below the current capital disregard.)

Notes:

1. All figures are given in nominal terms.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

3. The Earnings Index used is a three month (May to July) seasonally adjusted average of earnings for the whole economy including bonuses. The index is provided by the Office for National Statistics.

4. The prices index used is the RPI September value, as it is the most up to date. The index is provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Pensions Forecasts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have received pension forecasts in each of the last 10 years. [174806]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Pensions forecasts 1996 to 2008

	Total
1996-97	574,817
1997-98	562,542
1998-99	518,897
1999-2000	527,135
2000-01	593,857
2001-02	675,976
2002-03	768,302
2003-04	2,905,751
2004-05	6,088,848
2005-06	12,931,712
2006-07	10,674,729
2007-08	2,155,293
Total	38,977,859

Notes:

1. The 2007-08 figure is up to the end of October 2007.

2. The figures include all types of forecasts issued by The Pension Service within a particular year, i.e. Individual Pension forecasts, Real-Time Pension Forecasts, Combined Pension Forecasts and Automatic Pension Forecasts where applicable.

3. The increase in figures from 2003-04 to 2006-07 is as a result of 16,981,007 automatic pension forecasts being issued. The Pension Service suspended issuing these types of forecasts in November 2006, when all the customers for whom valid contact details were available, had received a forecast.

Source:

Pension Centre Forecasting Systems

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of people terminating their jobseeker's allowance claim after *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months and *(d)* two years of claiming the benefit were in receipt of (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) income support and (iii) incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (A) up to six months, (B) between six and 12 months and (C) more than 12 months after leaving the benefit in each year since 1997; [173912]

(2) how many and what percentage of people terminating their incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim after *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months and *(d)* two years of claiming the benefit were in receipt of (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) income support and (iii) incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (A) up to six months, (B) between six and 12 months and (c) more than 12 months after leaving benefit in each year since 1997; [173914]

(3) how many and what percentage of people terminating their income support claim after *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months and *(d)* two years of claiming the benefit were in receipt of (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) income support and (iii) incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (A) up to six months, (B) between six and 12 months and (c) more than 12 months after leaving benefit in each year since 1997. [173915]

Mr. Timms: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the economic cost of youth unemployment in the latest year for which figures are available. [181761]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 1997, the number of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance has fallen by two fifths and those with six months plus durations is down by more than 75 per cent. This has contributed to a £5 billion fall in the cost of unemployment-related benefits compared to a decade ago.

The number of young people staying on in education has continued to rise since 1997 and the Government are planning to raise the learning participation age to 18. In addition, through policies such as New Deal, the Government has sought to improve labour market outcomes for all those who can face problems in finding and progressing in work, including young people.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162346, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance numbers. [171152]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 193W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Flood Control

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial assistance is available to farmers to enable them to clear ditches and other watercourses for which they are responsible; and if he will make a statement. [183569]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The flood risk operating authorities (Environment Agency, local authorities and, in areas of special drainage need, internal drainage boards) undertake prioritised programmes of maintenance work on watercourses, including cleaning and dredging where appropriate. Otherwise responsibility for clearance lies with the land owner.

Total central and local government spend on management of flood and coastal erosion risk will be some £600 million this year, rising incrementally to £800 million in 2010-11. This is invested primarily in works on the ground carried out by the aforementioned operating authorities.

Carbon Offsetting Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund has awarded to offsetting or renewable energy projects in the UK in each year since inception. [183283]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have not funded any UK based projects via the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund.

Climate Change: Finance

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided by his Department for programmes run by *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* other public bodies and *(d)* non-governmental organisations to (i) mitigate and (ii) assist adaptation to climate change; and how much was spent on such programmes in each of the last five years. [177944]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has provided funding for various programmes run by central Government, local authorities, other public bodies and non-governmental organisations to mitigate and assist adaptation to climate change.

I will arrange for full details of this funding to be placed in the House Libraries.

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the value of assets *(a)* dependent in 2008 and *(b)* which will be dependent in 2028 on the retention and maintenance of existing sea defences between Pagham and East Head. [184826]

Mr. Woolas: The economic assessment within the Pagham and East Head Coastal Defence Strategy is being developed by the Environment Agency in accordance with DEFRA project appraisal guidance and the Treasury "Green Book". This assesses the damage avoided by protecting existing assets from flooding and coastal erosion. By 2108, without maintenance of all the existing defences, it is estimated that damage in the order of £334 million (at today's prices) would occur. This figure is not the same as the total value of assets, nor does it include damage to non-housing infrastructure, for which no figures are available.

In terms of total asset value and based upon the work completed to date, there are currently 1,028 residential properties at risk of flooding, with an estimated value of around £250 million. Due to sea level rise, this figure is expected to increase to 1,230 properties by 2028 and 3,960 properties by 2108. These equate to estimated values of £300 million in 2028 and £960 million in 2108 at today's prices.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the UK received from the EU for flood prevention measures in each of the last 20 years. [178794]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has received £5.9 million from the European Union for flood risk management work (including flood defences) over the last 20 years and will continue to look at the possibility of applications to the European Union for flood defence. Flood risk management is a devolved matter and information from the Environment Agency relates to England and Wales only.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent from the public purse in dealing with *(a)* flood recovery and *(b)* repair of flood damage in Gloucestershire in 2007. [178795]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government is leading co-ordination of the wider Government flood recovery effort to help communities return to normality following the flooding last summer. To date, £14.8 million has been awarded by various Government Departments to councils within Gloucestershire to support their recovery efforts.

The Environment Agency's estimated annual spend in Gloucestershire on controlling development, flood warning and awareness, flood risk mapping, maintenance of flood defences and watercourses is £1.5 million. The Environment Agency has spent an estimated extra £400,000 in Gloucestershire since the summer floods of 2007 on flood recovery, data collection, watercourse maintenance and repairs to flood defence assets.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase funding for the Environment Agency for flood prevention. [178798]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA grant in aid to the Environment Agency for flood risk management has increased significantly in recent years and currently stands at £436 million for 2007-08. Total central and local government spend for flood and coastal erosion risk management across all operating authorities (Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards) will increase to a minimum of £650 million in 2008-09, £700 million in 2009-10 and £800 million in 2010-11 but specific allocations within these totals have not yet been finalised.

Floods

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place the Environment Agency's flood mapping data in the public domain for use without charge. [178688]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's flood mapping data, which provide information on flood risk from rivers and the sea, is already publicly available on the internet. Additional flood mapping data and flood defence information are available from the Environment Agency in response to requests for access, subject to the Environment Agency's standard licence terms and conditions.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1493W, on floods, on which regional boundaries the *(a)* regional flood defence committees and *(b)* regional flood risk appraisals are based. [183155]

Mr. Woolas: Regional Flood Defence Committee boundaries are based on hydrological catchment boundaries, with the exception that the westerly boundaries of the Regional Flood Defence Committees adjoining Wales follow the boundary between England and Wales.

Similarly, strategic level flood risk assessments are undertaken by river catchment rather than by regional boundary. The Environment Agency is currently preparing catchment flood management plans for all of England and Wales.

Flood risk assessments for smaller areas may be aggregated to administrative boundaries. However, risk will vary greatly within administrative areas and may be significantly influenced by activities outside these boundaries. Appraisals are therefore not normally based on administrative boundaries.

Floods: Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which areas covered by the draft Regional Spatial Strategy and designated by the Environment Agency as at risk of flooding have had houses built on them since 1997; on which of those areas development is planned; and if he will make a statement. [182539]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency and the Local Government Association have produced reports on High Level Target Five since 2000. Information is provided on development plans, planning applications, and appeals where the Environment Agency sustained its objections on flood risk grounds through to a known decision.

Historically, the Environment Agency has not been informed of the outcome of every individual planning application that it objected to. However, this is now a requirement under Planning Policy Statement 25.

In 2006-07, the Environment Agency was made aware of the outcome of 299 out of 754 planning applications and 22 out of 30 appeals which it objected to in the Southern Region.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken since the summer 2007 floods to reduce the risk of flooding in residential areas; what steps he is planning to take; and if he will make a statement. [182576]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael Pitt and his team produced an interim review of the 2007 summer floods in December and a final report is intended to be produced this summer.

15 urgent recommendations were highlighted for Government, its Agencies and others to take action. Updates on how these recommendations are being taken forward will be made available soon.

In addition, we expect to make a range of announcements on how to manage surface water drainage better in the upcoming Government Water Strategy.

Floods: River Severn

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on flood protection measures in the lower Severn area in 2006-07; how much it is spending in 2007-08; and how much it intends to spend in 2008-09. [183048]

Mr. Woolas: For the section of the lower Severn that falls within Gloucestershire and the Environment Agency's midlands region, the agency spends estimated sums of £750,000 annually on activities such as development control, flood warning and awareness and risk mapping and £750,000 on maintaining river channels, flood banks and control structures. Spending will be maintained at similar levels in 2008-09.

Levies on local authorities are used to fund further works which have a high priority locally but do not currently meet national prioritisation criteria for funding from DEFRA grant in aid. In 2006-07 £725,000 was spent on work at Cornham and Alney Island. Levy funding for 2008-09 is yet to be formally agreed.

Since 2000 the agency has completed large capital improvement projects at Cone Pill-Lydney (£4.7 million), Lydney Harbour (£1.7 million) and on the River Chelt (£26.5 million).

Genetics

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* reliability of genetic use restriction technologies as a biosafety tool. [182547]

Mr. Woolas: In 2006 DEFRA published a study that reviewed the various technologies that might be used to achieve biological containment and as biosafety tools for crops. This study assessed the current state of play of *(a)* the effectiveness and *(b)* the reliability of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) as well as other containment technologies for potential use as biosafety tools. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) also provided advice on the findings of this report. Both the study and the ACRE advice are available on the DEFRA website.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 522W, on Home Information Packs, if he will place in the Library copies of each of the written representations made by the Environment Agency. [183156]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Atmospheric Emissions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the estimated volume of emissions of hydrogen fluoride was from *(a)* energy industries, *(b)* manufacturing industries and construction, *(c)* road transport, *(d)* residential housing, *(e)* agriculture and forestry fuel use, *(f)* fugitive emissions from fuels, *(g)* industrial processes, *(h)* solvent and other product use, *(i)* agriculture, *(j)* waste disposal and *(k)* other sources in each year since 1997; [181964]

(2) what the estimated volume of emissions of hydrogen chloride was from *(a)* energy industries, *(b)* manufacturing industries and construction, *(c)* road transport, broken down into (i) passenger cars, (ii) light duty vehicles and, (iii) mopeds and motorcycles, *(d)* residential housing, *(e)* agriculture and forestry fuel use, *(f)* fugitive emissions from fuels, *(g)* industrial processes, *(h)* solvent and other product use, *(i)* agriculture, *(j)* waste disposal and *(k)* other sources in each year since 1997; [181965]

(3) what the estimated volume of emissions of carbon monoxide was from *(a)* road transport, *(b)* residential and *(c)* other sources in each year since 1997; [181966]

(4) what the estimated volume of emissions of ammonia was from *(a)* energy industries, *(b)* manufacturing industries and construction, *(c)* road transport, *(d)* residential housing, *(e)* agriculture and forestry fuel use, *(f)* fugitive emissions from fuels, *(g)* industrial processes, *(h)* solvent and other product use, *(i)* agriculture, *(j)* waste disposal and *(k)* other sources in each year since 1997. [181967]

Mr. Woolas: The figures requested are available online at the UK's National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory's (NAEI) website at:

www.naei.org.uk

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated volume of emissions of sulphur dioxide was in *(a)* large combustion plants and *(b)* total in each year since 1997. [181963]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the total emissions of sulphur dioxide is held in the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) and is publicly accessible via the NAEI's website. The latest year for which verified data is available is 2005, although 2006 data will be available shortly.

Information on large combustion plant emissions has been derived from the pollution inventories managed by the relevant environment agencies.

A summary table of the annual emissions data, in kilo tonnes, for 1997-2005 for sulphur dioxide is shown as follows:

	Large combustion plant	*Total*
1997	1,108	1,641
1998	1,207	1,619
1999	881	1,227
2000	848	1,215
2001	739	1,119
2002	638	1,002
2003	704	991
2004	541	836
2005	438	706

Landfill Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of the revenue from the landfill tax was distributed as grants to relevant organisations in the last year for which figures are available. [183282]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 are £0.9 billion[1]. Landfill tax was designed to be revenue neutral. To date, the tax yield has been recycled by a 0.2 percentage point reduction in employers' national insurance contributions, and since 2005-06 by public spending (DEFRA's Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme in England). DEFRA have allocated £125 million to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme in 2007-08.

Rivers: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Environment Agency's criteria for determining the watercourses it is responsible for maintaining. [178789]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has permissive powers to undertake works to manage flood risk on watercourses designated as 'main' by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under the Water Resources Act 1991. Internal drainage boards have similar powers for other, 'ordinary', watercourses in areas of special drainage need and local authorities for ordinary watercourses outside internal drainage districts. Watercourses are designated as main (enmained) in general if they create significant flood risk. An exercise to establish which of the remaining ordinary watercourses created the greatest flood risk resulted in 1,800 watercourse lengths being enmained between 2004 and 2006.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to the merits of giving local authorities greater powers to *(a)* carry out routine maintenance on and *(b)* remove obstacles from watercourses. [178792]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities have permissive powers to undertake works to manage flood risk on ordinary ("non-main") watercourses outside internal drainage districts under the Land Drainage Act 1991, including maintenance works and removal of obstacles. For those watercourses designated as "main river", this power is vested in the Environment Agency. Watercourses are designated as main river (enmained) in general if they create significant flood risk. An exercise to establish which ordinary watercourses created the greatest flood risk resulted in 1,800 watercourse lengths being enmained between 2004 and 2006.

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[1] Further details are published in table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review available at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

Severn Trent Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ofwat officials have had on Severn Trent plc's decisions to (i) charge for surface water drainage according to site area and (ii) withdraw exceptions for schools, hospitals, community buildings and churches. [181108]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not discussed the specific issue of surface water drainage charging in the Severn Trent region with either Ofwat or Severn Trent Water. However, there have been other more general discussions with Ofwat, during which the issue of site area-based surface water drainage charging, and rebates of charges, were considered.

Ofwat meets with water and sewerage companies annually to discuss their charges for the coming year. Ofwat has discussed area-based charging for surface water drainage for non-household customers with Severn Trent Water extensively since it was introduced for all customers in 2000-01.

During 2007, Ofwat and Severn Trent Water discussed withdrawing the current exemptions from surface water drainage charges relating to religious and community buildings (including schools and hospitals).

Drains

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of problems with privately owned drains in relation to surface water flooding; [184015]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of drains under private riparian ownership. [184028]

Mr. Woolas: The term 'drain' has a wide definition, encompassing smaller watercourses, ditches, sewers etc. There is no estimate of the total number under private ownership.

We announced in February 2007 that private sewers and lateral drains in England draining to the public sewerage system will be transferred into the ownership of water companies. This is to ensure a more integrated management of the sewerage system and to help meet the challenges of climate change and future housing growth. It has been estimated that up to 50 per cent. of properties in England and Wales are connected to a private sewer in one form or another and are unlikely to have any kind of maintenance regime, most householders being unaware that they are responsible for them.

Voles: Conservation

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any prosecutions have taken place for offences related to the protection of vole habitats under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 since 1998. [183387]

Joan Ruddock: The number of defendants proceeded against for offences under section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England and Wales from 1998 to 2006 is shown in the table. The Ministry of Justice is unable to separate offences relating to the protection of vole habitats from offences against other animals listed in schedule 5 of the Act.

	Number
1998	—
1999	3
2000	—
2001	4
2002	4
2003	3
2004	4
2005	7
2006	22

The figures are on the principal offence basis.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any derogations have been granted from the protection afforded to vole habitats under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 since 1998. [183388]

Joan Ruddock: Since 1998, 10 licences have been issued to disturb water voles in their place of shelter. The licences were issued for the purposes of either conservation or scientific study of the species, such as projects leading to restoration of their habitat. The 10 licences relate to four separate projects.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1133W, on domestic wastes: waste disposal, whether the satisfaction survey that local authorities must carry out as part of best value performance indicators includes a requirement to assess public satisfaction with local authority waste collection services. [178899]

Joan Ruddock: There are three best value performance satisfaction indicators for waste:

BVP190a	Satisfaction with household waste collection
BVP190b	Satisfaction with waste recycling (local facilities)
BVP190c	Satisfaction with waste disposal (local tips)

The latest national results for public satisfaction with local government and its services with trends over time, by authority type and by region for each indicator are set out in the "Best Value User Satisfaction Survey 2006-07: General Survey National Report", that can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether members of the public will be able to make submissions to the organisation which will produce the reports to lay before Parliament under the provisions of the Climate Change Bill on the operation of the new household rubbish collection charge pilots. [183370]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Procedural details relating to the evaluation of these pilots are not a matter for legislation and will be considered separately in due course. In general, however, we welcome the public's views on the operation of the pilots.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed household rubbish collection charge pilots will apply to composite hereditaments. [183371]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Paragraph 1 of proposed schedule 2AA, which sets out the rules for the schemes, allows schemes to be applied to any domestic premises within the definition given in paragraph 16 of schedule 2AA. This definition of domestic premises includes composite hereditaments, as it covers any part of a building used wholly for the purposes of living accommodation.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will designate an independent agency to undertake the reports to be laid before Parliament on the operation of the new household rubbish collection tax pilots under the provisions of the Climate Change Bill. [183372]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Evaluation is central to proper piloting and we will be looking for the schemes to be independently evaluated. In line with standard parliamentary procedure, the legislation, however, requires the Secretary of State to lay the final report before Parliament.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed power of the Secretary of State under the Climate Change Bill to *(a)* designate a specific area as a pilot for new household rubbish collection charges and *(b)* issue guidance on the administration of such a specific pilot, will require parliamentary approval by the procedure of affirmative resolution. [183373]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Schedule 5, clause 54 of the proposed Climate Change Bill explains that an area will be designated as a pilot by designation order. It does not require parliamentary approval by affirmative resolution.

Schedule 2AA, paragraph 15 provides the Secretary of State with a power in primary legislation to issue guidance in respect of waste incentive schemes. The guidance does not require parliamentary approval by affirmative resolution. We intend to follow Cabinet Office guidance on full and proper consultation.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what technical definition he plans to use of a good recycling service to assess whether an area should participate in the proposed new households rubbish collection charge. [183374]

Joan Ruddock: The powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot non-revenue raising incentives schemes designed to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

As can be seen in the Climate Change Bill, the legislative provisions require that any pilot area has a good recycling service in place; and that this will be defined in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. We will be working with stakeholders to develop guidance on providing a good recycling service and will consult formally on this.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to what public authority or independent complaints authority individuals will be able to appeal under the household rubbish collection charge pilots decisions on liability for charges under the scheme. [183375]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives schemes to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

Paragraph 9 of the proposed new Schedule 2AA to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 will require local authorities selected to pilot schemes to have in place a suitable appeals process for

> "any decision affecting, directly or indirectly, that person's entitlement to a rebate or other payment, or liability to pay a charge, under the scheme".

We plan to consult formally on guidance on this matter. Local authorities will be required to have regard to any final guidance.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what point in the financial year he expects *(a)* charges and *(b)* rebates to be made under the proposals for household rubbish collection charges. [183376]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

At what point in the financial year charges and rebates are made is a matter for any local authority piloting waste incentive schemes. They will take that decision based on what is right for their area.

Waste Disposal: Incinerators

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* the use of and *(b)* planning for incinerators for the disposal of waste; and what his policy is on such facilities. [178814]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has regular discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) about a wide range of issues, including sustainable waste management. Decisions on planning for residual waste treatment rest with Local Authorities rather than central Government. It is also local authorities, in conjunction with the waste industry, that build waste facilities.

The number of new incinerators built will depend on the technologies and scale of facilities chosen by local authorities. Guidance on planning for waste facilities is contained within Planning Policy Statement 10, published by CLG in July 2005.

Recycling rates are growing fast, but there will always be some wastes that cannot be recycled. 11 per cent. of waste is currently incinerated in England, but an increase is likely to be needed to be able to meet landfill directive targets, despite big improvements in waste recycling and minimisation. Recovering energy from waste (including via incineration) offers a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative of landfill. This is primarily through avoided landfill methane emissions, with energy generated from the biodegradable fraction of waste also offsetting fossil fuel power generation.

Waste Disposal: Recycling

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste collected in City of York was recycled in each year since 1996-97; and what financial assistance has been provided by the Government to York for recycling in that period. [183419]

Joan Ruddock: The Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicators show the percentage of household waste recycled or composted by York city council in each year since 1996-97 is:

	Percentage
1996-97	5.3
1997-98	5.2
1998-99	5.9
1999-2000	6.3
2000-01	9.8
2001-02	10.3
2002-03	12.3
2003-04	15.4
2004-05	17.8
2005-06	24.1
2006-07	39.9

1996-97 to 1999-2000 were recorded for household waste that was recycled only, subsequent years were recorded for household waste recycled or composted.

The main source of funding for local authorities' waste management services is Formula Grant distributed by the Government each year. It is for each local authority to decide how to use this funding, including how much to invest in waste management services.

Specific funding awarded from 2003-04 onwards to York city council, available for it to use on improving its recycling services, is detailed in the following table:

Funding type	*Funding amount (£)*	*Funding description*	*Start date*	*End date*
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Service	36,015	Partnership Development	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund (Round 3)	350,000	Household Waste Recycling Centre Development	1 April 2004	31 March 2006
Grant to relieve spending pressures on waste	50,735	Share of £20 million to all local authorities in England in recognition of the need to spend on waste management	1 April 2004	31 March 2005
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	145,790	Capital £82,006.62 Revenue £63,782.92	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	72,182	York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership (YNYWMP) and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)—revision and development	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Household Incentives	23,400	Four incentive pilots for a six-month period starting October 2005. All authorities run the first two pilots but can elect to undertake a third and fourth.	1 April 2005	31 March 2006
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	99,832	Waste Composition Study	1 April 2006	31 March 2008
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	387,705	Capital £193,852 Revenue £193,852	1 April 2006	31 March 2007
Waste and Performance Efficiency Grant (WPEG)	406,075	Capital £203,037 Revenue £203,037	1 April 2007	31 March 2008

York city council also received free guidance and support during this time, including from the Waste and Resources Action Programme's ROTATE programme. ROTATE is a free advisory service which supports local authorities' kerbside collection and local communications and awareness programmes.

No separate funding was provided to the council for recycling prior to 2003-04.

Wild Boar

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk that uncontrolled wild boar pose to *(a)* lives and *(b)* property. [184680]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has commissioned two detailed assessments on the risks and impacts of wild boar to inform policy on the management of this species. The risk assessments will be published in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on the national implementation of alcohol disorder zones. [183417]

Jacqui Smith: No costs have been incurred in the roll out of Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs), as they have not yet been commenced.

Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which criminal offences have been created in each Act sponsored by her Department in the last five years. [182351]

Jacqui Smith: The following table lists the principal provisions creating criminal offences contained in legislation passed in the last five years for which the Home Office retains responsibility.

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Offences relating to notification (section 91)

Breach of Sexual Offences Prevention Order or interim SOPO (section 113)

Breach of foreign travel order (section 122)

Breach of Risk of Sexual Harm Order or interim RSHO (section 128)

Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003

Failure to comply with customer information order (sections 34 and 39)

Disclosure of certain information (section 42)

Assault on foreign officers (section 84)

Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003

Contravention of closure of premises order (section 4)

Possession of air weapon or imitation firearm in public place (section 37)

Air weapons: age limits (section 38)

Prohibition of certain air weapons (section 39)

Closure of noisy premises: failure to comply with notice (section 40)

Sale of aerosol paint to children (section 54)

Offences in relation to raves (section 58)

Failure to comply with direction (section 61)

Failure to comply with remedial orders (sections 75 and 78)

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004

Assisting unlawful immigration (section 1)

Entering United Kingdom without passport (section 2)

Immigration documents: forgery (section 3)

Trafficking people for exploitation (section 4)

Failure to comply with requirements relating to deportation or removal (section 35)

Offence of advertising services (section 39)

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

Offences in relation to control orders (section 9)

Drugs Act 2005

Offences in relation to attendance at initial assessment (section 12)

Offences in relation to attendance at follow-up assessment (section 14)

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Assaults, obstruction or deception in connection with designations (section 51)

Assaults or obstruction in connection with joint investigation teams (section 57)

Offences in connection with disclosure notices or search warrants (section 67)

Offence of disclosing information about protection arrangements (section 86)

Offences of disclosing information relating to persons assuming new identity (section 88)

Money laundering: form and manner of disclosures (section 105)

Contravention of direction to leave a place (section 112)

Harassment intended to deter lawful activities (section 125)

Harassment etc of a person in his home (section 126)

Harassment etc: police direction to stay away from person's home (section 127)

Offence of trespassing on designated site (sections 128 and 129)

Demonstrating without authorisation in designated area (section 132)

Failure to comply with authorisation of demonstrations in designated area (section 134)

Loudspeakers in designated area (section 137)

Interference with contractual relationships so as to harm animal research organisation (section 145)

Intimidation of persons connected with animal research organisation (section 146)

Offence in respect of incorrectly registered vehicles (section 150)

Failure to comply with request to require production of registration documents in respect of a vehicle (section 151)

Police and Justice Act 2006

Making supplying or obtaining articles for use in computer misuse offences (section 37)

Identity Cards Act 2006

Possession of false identity documents etc (section 25)

Unauthorised disclosure of information (section 27)

Providing false information (section 28)

Tampering with the Register etc (section 29)

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

Adds into existing legislation various offences involving stirring up hatred on religious grounds, including by use of words or behaviour or display of written material; publishing or distributing written material; performance of plays; distributing etc of recordings; broadcasting programmes; possession of inflammatory material.

Terrorism Act 2006

Encouragement of terrorism (section 1)

Dissemination of terrorist publications (section 2)

Preparation of terrorist acts (section [illegible])

Training for terrorism (section [illegible])

Attendance at a place used for terrorist training (section 8)

Making and possession of devices or materials (section 9)

Misuse of devices or material and misuse and damage of facilities (section 10)

Terrorist threats relating to devices, materials or facilities (section 11)

Trespassing etc on nuclear sites (section 12)

Commission of offences abroad (section 17)

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006

Employing person subject to immigration control (section 21)

Bodies corporate, &c (section 22)

Failure to comply with police requests for information (section 34)

Absconding from detention, obstruction or assault of authorised search officer (section 41)

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Breach of a drinking banning order (section 11)

Persistently selling alcohol to children (section 23)

Using someone to mind a weapon (section 28)

Selling air weapons unless a registered firearms dealer (section 31)

Sale of air weapons by way of trade or business where the sale is not done face to face section 32)

Firing an air weapon beyond premises (section 34)

Sale and purchase of primers (section 35)

Manufacture, sale, importation of realistic imitation firearms (section 36)

Non-compliance with specifications for imitation firearms (section 39)

Sale/purchase of imitation firearms to/by minors (section 40)

Sale and disposal of tickets for a designated football match by an unauthorised person (section 53)

UK Borders Act 2007

Absconding from detention (section 3)

Assaulting an immigration officer (section 22)

Wrongful disclosure (section 42)

Serious Crime Act 2007

Failing to comply with serious crime prevention order (section 25)

Certain disclosures of information (section 69)

Supplementary provision in relation to new powers (section 81)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in the five *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England and Wales in each of the last five years [182353]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office recorded crime statistics do not differentiate between the most and least deprived Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas.

Criminal Justice

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Acts of Parliament sponsored by her Department which relate either wholly or partly to criminal justice have been passed since May 1997. [182363]

Jacqui Smith: Responsibility for general policy on criminal justice passed to the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

As regards those areas of policy which are still the responsibility of the Home Office, the following Acts passed since May 1997 relate wholly or in significant part to criminal justice:

Firearms (Amendment)(No. 2) Act 1997

Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act 1997

Criminal Justice (International Co-operation)(Amendment) Act 1998

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Football (Offences and Disorder) Act 1999

Football (Disorder) Act 2000

Terrorism Act 2000

Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001

Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Police Reform Act 2002

Mobile Phones Reprogramming Act 2002

Football Disorder (Amendment) Act 2002

Extradition Act 2003

Sexual Offences Act 2003, Part II

Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

Drugs Act 2005

Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

Police and Justice Act 2005

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006

Terrorism Act 2006

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Serious Crime Act 2007

National DNA Database

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information held on the national DNA database her Department received from other countries in each year since 2004. [169351]

Meg Hillier: There are three categories of information sought from the National DNA Database by other countries:

1. Searches carried out against the National DNA Database of DNA profiles from outstanding serious crimes or for the identification of an unknown deceased person believed to be a UK national. Reports are issued directly to United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) as to the outcome of each profile search.

	Number of searched profile responses provided to SOCA
2004-05	149
2005-06	249
2006-07	498
2007-08 to date 28 November 2007	523
Total	1,419

2. Request for the DNA profile held for a subject on the National DNA database, where fingerprints have been provided to the country that the individual currently resides in. Again this is information provided to SOCA.

Subject DNA profiles provided

	Number of profiles provided to SOCA
August 2004 to December 2004	12
2005	76
2006	66
2007 to date 28 November 2007	62
Total	216

3. Database management information. This provides the number of subject and crimestain DNA profile records held on the database and the number of match reports generated. Countries who do not have a DNA database use this information to demonstrate the success of the UK Database to support their case for legislation in their own country for a DNA database. Requestors are directed to the most recent published National DNA Database annual report, thus no figures are kept for the numbers of such requests.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged under *(a)* 10, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 18 years old who have not been convicted of any offence have their DNA profile stored on the National DNA Database. [167032]

Jacqui Smith: In relation to the number of individuals who have not been convicted of any offence on the National DNA Database, I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 761W. This gives figures for the numbers of those with a profile on the NDNAD who have not been convicted of any offence. However a further breakdown of these figures by age could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

As at 10 August 2007 there were records of 47 individuals under the age of 10 on the National DNA Database, of which 38 were submitted by forces in England and Wales and nine from forces in Scotland. In England and Wales a child under 10 is below the age of criminal responsibility and so cannot be prosecuted and convicted, so by definition those of this age on the DNA Database had not been convicted of any offence. Also, in England and Wales the police have no power to take a DNA sample from an under 10 without the consent of a parent or guardian. In Scotland the age of criminal responsibility is eight, so the nine children whose details had been submitted by Scottish forces may have been convicted of an offence.

Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the Class A drugs seizures quantities in the table on page 22 of the latest Serious and Organised Crime Agency annual report were drugs destined for the UK; and if she will break down the seizures by Government Department leading the interdiction. [184295]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The ecstasy, opium and LSD reported on page 22 of SOCA's Annual Report were seized within the UK. The majority of the seizures of cocaine and heroin took place outside of the UK. Trafficking routes frequently involve a number of countries and the route from producer to the UK will be deliberately circuitous to avoid detection by law enforcement. These are the same routes used to traffic drugs to other European states and it is, therefore, impossible to determine accurately what proportion of an individual shipment will be destined for the UK.

Firearms

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects deactivated guns to be reclassified as replicas. [179652]

Mr. Coaker: As I announced on 10 January, we will be consulting on how best to control deactivated firearms and no decision has yet been taken on how this will be achieved.

Identity and Passport Service: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people worked for the Identity and Passport Service on 31 December 2007. [181628]

Meg Hillier: The number of people on the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) payroll on 31 December 2007 was 4,132.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department *(a)* permits or *(b)* requires responsible adults to be present when interviewing minors at passport interview centres; what child protection procedures her Department and its agencies have in place when processing minors' applications; and if she will make a statement. [181668]

Meg Hillier: IPS introduced interview for adults aged 16 years and over who are applying for their first British passport. Younger applicants are not subject to an interview.

Police Stations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 644W, on police stations, and with reference to the answer of

4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1888W, on police, for what reason she is unable to provide updated figures for the number of police stations operational in each force area in 2006. [178610]

Jacqui Smith: Due to the changes in the use of police buildings and the quality of some information supplied by police forces it has proved to be difficult to obtain comprehensive information as to the number of police stations in use.

Police: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on policing per head of the population in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [183034]

Jacqui Smith: Information on police authority budgets and resident population since 1997 are set out in the following tables.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

	1997-98		*1998-99*		*1999-2000*	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Avon and Somerset	159,006,562	1.46	164,832,690	1.47	173,315,000	1.48
Bedfordshire	59,172,000	0.55	61,342,000	0.55	63,415,484	0.56
Cambridgeshire	68,262,627	0.70	70,750,814	0.70	75,172,824	0.70
Cheshire	101,311,186	0.98	105,027,098	0.98	111,094,438	0.98
Cleveland	75,559,324	0.55	79,335,389	0.55	83,286,975	0.55
Cumbria	59,745,000	0.49	61,935,000	0.49	64,523,000	0.49
Derbyshire	95,295,300	0.95	98,790,759	0.96	106,492,000	0.96
Devon and Cornwall	157,809,828	1.54	164,710,339	1.54	175,870,040	1.55
Dorset	70,007,522	0.68	72,561,284	0.68	77,379,800	0.69
Durham	73,489,621	0.60	76,990,391	0.60	81,266,191	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	49,950,000	0.48	51,780,887	0.48	55,715,905	0.48
Essex	157,808,369	1.58	163,570,932	1.59	169,455,253	1.60
Gloucestershire	60,203,441	0.56	62,411,629	0.56	65,962,950	0.56
Greater Manchester	352,764,581	2.52	365,686,086	2.52	382,528,615	2.52
Gwent	64,558,499	0.55	66,927,277	0.55	71,414,443	0.55
Hampshire	180,511,248	1.75	187,128,030	1.76	196,536,000	1.77
Hertfordshire	92,965,806	1.01	95,981,139	1.02	101,563,037	1.02
Humberside	106,074,730	0.88	109,969,500	0.88	114,306,850	0.87
Kent	168,865,000	1.55	176,101,000	1.55	184,225,000	1.56
Lancashire	168,250,000	1.41	174,411,000	1.41	181,340,000	1.41
Leicestershire	97,505,000	0.92	101,082,730	0.92	106,279,000	092
Lincolnshire	64,201,257	0.62	65,756,172	0.63	69,724,760	0.63
Merseyside	233,451,010	1.39	239,578,121	1.39	247,021,940	1.38
Metropolitan	1,719,640,000	7.01	1,777,511,000	7.06	1,836,186,000	7.15
Norfolk	78,148,092	0.77	81,001,502	0.78	86,869,903	0.79
North Wales	71,301,642	0.65	73,913,992	0.66	79,554,819	0.66
North Yorkshire	71,594,000	0.73	74,362,880	0.73	78,044,000	0.74
Northamptonshire	63,791,878	0.61	66,113,479	0.62	70,432,000	0.62
Northumbria	193,687,000	1.42	202,590,000	1.41	212,600,000	1.40
Nottinghamshire	118,536,000	1.02	122,877,000	1.02	129,643,000	1.02
South Wales	155,439,908	1.21	161,134,896	1.21	169,968,039	1.21
South Yorkshire	159,242,400	1.28	165,074,000	1.27	173,333,000	1.27
Staffordshire	113,008,566	1.05	117,155,343	1.05	122,172,000	1.05
Suffolk	63,490,053	0.66	65,811,916	0.66	69,936,429	0.67
Surrey	88,434,054	1.04	88,818,323	1.04	93,375,000	1.06
Sussex	155,709,000	1.46	161,419,000	1.47	167,984,000	1.49
Thames Valley	209,763,428	2.06	217,445,276	2.07	229,085,758	2.08
Warwickshire	50,904,377	0.50	52,771,905	0.50	55,855,956	0.50
West Mercia	106,490,016	1.13	110,393,116	1.14	116,490,000	1.14
West Midlands	354,200,595	2.59	367,161,201	2.59	380,910,439	2.58
West Yorkshire	268,334,000	2.07	278,149,805	2.07	289,074,330	2.07
Wiltshire	63,334,000	0.59	65,649,000	0.60	68,927,000	0.60
England and Wales total	6,821,816,920	51.56	7,066,013,901	51. 71	7 388,311,178	51.93

	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Avon and Somerset	181,197,000	1.49	189,720,000	1.49	196,089,000	1.50
Bedfordshire	66,775,607	0.56	70,727,878	0.57	72,605,279	0.57
Cambridgeshire	79,503,689	0.71	84,131,136	0.71	90,799,700	0.72
Cheshire	115,132,051	0.98	121,798,317	0.98	124,970,000	0.99
Cleveland	86,466,800	0.55	90,735,000	0.55	95,694,000	0.55
Cumbria	67,400,000	0.49	70,600,000	0.49	72,650,000	0.49
Derbyshire	111,090,198	0.96	116,963,249	0.97	123,603,035	0.97
Devon and Cornwall	182,366,686	1.57	191,117,221	1.58	198,375,389	1.59
Dorset	80,971,300	0.69	84,584,100	0.69	87,889,300	0.70
Durham	83,999,053	0.59	87,663,024	0.59	89,216,603	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	59,025,095	0.49	62,883,893	0.49	65,332,005	0.49
Essex	183,122,689	1.61	194,844,514	1.62	198,477,445	1.62
Gloucestershire	68,553,570	0.56	72,220,000	0.56	74,986,000	0.57
Greater Manchester	393,570,014	2.52	411,132,000	2.52	415,261,000	2.52
Gwent	76,135,341	0.55	80,680,620	0.55	84,386,006	0.55
Hampshire	204,660,000	1.77	216,224,000	1.78	227,547,000	1.79
Hertfordshire	121,168,331	1.03	129,305,385	1.04	132,696,567	1.04
Humberside	118,900,000	0.87	128,206,000	0.88	131,635,000	0.88
Kent	193,127,000	1.57	206,742,000	1.58	214,626,000	1.59
Lancashire	189,616,000	1.41	198,015,000	1.42	202,025,000	1.42
Leicestershire	110,150,000	0.92	116,415,012	0.93	122,586,056	0.93
Lincolnshire	72,599,526	0.64	76,053,758	0.65	77,113,400	0.66
Merseyside	253,674,990	1.37	265,111,460	1.37	268,584,230	1.37
Metropolitan	1,830,000,000	7.23	1,980,100,000	7.32	2,037,700,000	7.36
Norfolk	91,490,283	0.79	98,425,877	0.80	104,362,283	0.80
North Wales	84,019,010	0.66	89,451,522	0.66	93,455,583	0.67
North Yorkshire	81,000,000	0.74	85,860,000	0.75	93,142,000	0.76
Northamptonshire	73,370,000	0.63	76,811,000	0.63	81,609,000	0.64
Northumbria	218,387,000	1.40	227,634,000	1.39	228,585,000	1.39
Nottinghamshire	133,822,000	1.02	140,265,320	1.02	145,228,163	1.02
South Wales	179,083,886	1.21	188,937,098	1.20	195,006,056	1.21
South Yorkshire	179,676,400	1.27	187,178,500	1.27	191,371,638	1.27
Staffordshire	126,964,000	1.05	134,273,000	1.05	136,960,100	1.05
Suffolk	72,937,545	0.67	77,612,517	0.67	81,165,757	0.67
Surrey	119,859,000	1.06	122,396,165	1.06	128,578,885	1.06
Sussex	174,533,000	1.49	183,875,000	1.50	189,799,000	1.50
Thames Valley	238,316,107	2.09	252,131,445	2.10	259,252,001	2.10
Warwickshire	58,858,079	0.50	62,392,000	0.51	65,787,000	0.51
West Mercia	125,700,000	1.15	133,225,000	1.16	144,403,000	1.17
West Midlands	394,602,519	2.57	410,722,000	2.57	415,500,000	2.58
West Yorkshire	301,374,886	2.07	314,113,000	2.08	323,904,000	2.09
Wiltshire	71,981,000	0.61	75,644,000	0.61	77,571,000	0.62
England and Wales total	7,655,179,655	52.13	8,106,921,011	52.35	8,360,528,481	52.56

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Avon and Somerset	215,885,000	1.51	228,655,000	1.52	240,632,000	1.53
Bedfordshire	78,229,003	0.57	83,054,572	0.58	87,283,056	0.58
Cambridgeshire	99,148,253	0.73	106,055,212	0.74	112,525,434	0.75
Cheshire	135,181,659	0.99	142,258,000	0.99	148,387,000	0.99
Cleveland	103,727,300	0.55	109,402,380	0.55	114,811,422	0.55
Cumbria	79,742,000	0.49	85,600,000	0.49	89,115,200	0.50
Derbyshire	132,864,562	0.98	139,837,742	0.98	145,884,008	0.98
Devon and Cornwall	220,160,398	1.60	233,169,539	1.62	243,711,293	1.63
Dorset	95,566,400	0.70	101,678,000	070	106,976,800	0.70
Durham	95,729,626	0.59	100,663,547	0,60	105,403,420	0.60
Dyfed-Powys	71,234,933	0.50	77,007,531	0.50	80,276,930	0.51

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Essex	212,755,956	1.63	222,081,539	1.64	232,229,000	1.65
Gloucestershire	86,850,000	0.57	92,024,000	0.57	95,927,750	0.58
Greater Manchester	450,871,499	2.53	468,918,991	2.54	493,914,043	2.55
Gwent	91,973,413	0.56	98,190,213	0.56	102,311,000	0.56
Hampshire	247,614,000	1.80	261,498,000	1.80	272,889,000	1.81
Hertfordshire	143,154,785	1.04	152,728,042	1.04	159,457,979	1.05
Humberside	141,992,061	0.88	150,435,067	0.89	156,908,520	0.89
Kent	233,039,000	1.60	245,810,000	1.61	256,520,400	1.62
Lancashire	216,769,000	1.43	228,935,000	1.43	240,365,000	1.44
Leicestershire	130,089,110	0.94	138,064,985	0.95	146,275,519	0.95
Lincolnshire	81,127,664	0.67	85,105,554	0.67	89,863,416	0.68
Merseyside	282,863,100	1.36	294,867,054	1.37	306,627,744	1.37
Metropolitan	2,207,800,000	7.38	2,343,300,000	7.42	2,488,300,000	7.51
Norfolk	113,530,398	0.81	121,310,265	0.82	127,468,324	0.82
North Wales	104,641,175	0.67	115,243,212	0.67	120,677,834	0.68
North Yorkshire	114,280,000	0.76	122,000,000	0.76	126,165,400	0.77
Northamptonshire	90,339,100	0.64	96,778,000	0.65	101,803,000	0.65
Northumbria	241,230,000	1.39	249,810,000	1.40	262,015,000	1.41
Nottinghamshire	158,152,410	1.03	165,744,393	1.03	173,367,000	1.04
South Wales	201,011,109	1.21	216,619,985	1.22	227,435,012	1.22
South Yorkshire	207,209,984	1.27	216,571,182	1.28	226,351,089	1.29
Staffordshire	149,082,000	1.05	157,082,000	1.05	163,905,000	1.05
Suffolk	89,657,905	0.68	94,623,931	0.68	98,862,728	0.69
Surrey	149,229,177	1.06	157,869,681	1.07	165,407,184	1.08
Sussex	211,150,000	1.51	221,648,000	1.51	231,282,000	1.52
Thames Valley	292,370,658	2.11	311,517,644	2.12	325,214,230	2.14
Warwickshire	70,288,000	0.52	73,890,000	0.53	77,200,000	0.53
West Mercia	154,505,000	1.17	165,838,000	1.18	172,791,000	1.19
West Midlands	441,200,000	2.58	460,600,000	2.58	490,960,000	2.59
West Yorkshire	345,577,000	2.10	363,701,000	2.11	382,975,000	2.12
Wiltshire	83,823,000	0.62	88,293,000	0.63	92,705,000	0.63
England and Wales total	9,071,645,638	52.79	9,588,480,261	53.04	10,083,180,735	53.38

	2006-07		2007/08	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Avon and Somerset	236,729,347	1.54	248,854,304	1.55
Bedfordshire	87,335,239	0.59	91,229,000	0.59
Cambridgeshire	110,474,455	0.75	116,008,248	0.76
Cheshire	150,305,000	1.00	157,408,000	1.00
Cleveland	114,975,143	0.55	119,736,908	0.55
Cumbria	90,328,000	0.49	94,029,437	0.49
Derbyshire	145,328,989	0.99	151,564,335	0.99
Devon and Cornwall	246,273,836	1.64	256,803,556	1.65
Dorset	103,055,700	0.71	107,800,000	0.71
Durham	102,583,311	0.59	112,325,160	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	79,892,792	0.51	83,635,989	0.51
Essex	231,985,273	1.65	242,220,179	1.66
Gloucestershire	91,489,400	0.58	95,658,895	0.58
Greater Manchester	503,504,176	2.54	524,128,336	2.55
Gwent	106,054,899	0.56	110,674,143	0.56
Hampshire	269,722,000	1.82	281,925,000	1.83
Hertfordshire	164,225,494	1.06	171,441,072	1.06
Humberside	158,052,928	0.89	164,900,977	0.89
Kent	247,311,000	1.63	257,912,389	1.65
Lancashire	239,533,000	1.44	252,645,000	1.44
Leicestershire	148,270,715	0.95	154,705,856	0.96
Lincolnshire	86,492,378	0.69	90,405,764	0.70

	2006-07		2007/08	
Police authority	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*	*Budget requirement (£)*	*Resident population (million)*
Merseyside	296,426,757	1.36	307.320.130	1.36
Metropolitan	2,425,700,000	7.51	2,532,700,000	7.56
Norfolk	124,672,108	0.83	131,334,638	0.84
North Wales	118,675,632	0.68	124,801,733	0.68
North Yorkshire	122,894,000	0.77	127,634,283	0.77
Northamptonshire	105,398,000	0.66	110,306,000	0.66
Northumbria	260,475,000	1.39	270,145,176	1.39
Nottinghamshire	170,490,070	1.04	177,621,598	1.04
South Wales	222,649,897	1.23	232,098,915	1.23
South Yorkshire	230,581,818	1.28	239,624,966	1.28
Staffordshire	164,024,687	1.05	170,861,799	1.05
Suffolk	97,352,382	0.69	101,851,694	0.70
Surrey	172,396,784	1.08	180,592,560	1.08
Sussex	227,247,669	1.53	237,148,000	1.54
Thames Valley	329,137,246	2.14	344,367,127	2.15
Warwickshire	76,560,000	0.53	80,078,926	0.53
West Mercia	176,766,000	1.19	184,296,580	1.19
West Midlands	501,612,139	2.59	521,750,000	2.59
West Yorkshire	380,196,015	2.12	396,047,439	2.13
Wiltshire	91,633,000	0.64	96,022,839	0.64
England and Wales total	10.008.812.279	53.45	10,452,616,951	53.68

Proceeds of Crime: Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total sum is of money collected relating to the suspected financing of terrorism through the suspicious activity reports regime since its creation. [182215]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics on the amount of money seized as a result of information received through Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) on the suspected financing of terrorism have been collected by the National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit (NTFIU) of the Metropolitan Police since September 2006.

Since that date, £1,027,280 has been seized by the NTFIU for further investigation into the origins of the money and the intentions of the transacting parties following SARs of suspected terrorist financing passed onto them from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). It is not possible to provide further details of the transactions or a breakdown of this figure due to the need to protect ongoing operations.

Street Crime Initiative

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in the Home Office were working full time on the Street Crime Initiative in *(a)* December 2002 and *(b)* December 2007. [182361]

Jacqui Smith: The Street Crime Initiative was launched in 2002 in order to tackle robbery. Information on staffing levels of the Street Crime Action Team can no longer be given due to a change made in recording personnel details against organisational structure in 2004. The Street Crime Action Team disbanded in April 2005 at the close of the initiative.

Touting: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for (i) online and (ii) offline offences of ticket touting under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since it came into effect. [184455]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 670W, to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess). There have been a further two convictions in respect of offences committed during the 2006-07 football season. Ticket touting on the internet was added to the offence under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 on 6 April 2007. Centrally collated information is not broken down into online and offline offences.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Finance

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the net economic benefit, as in paragraph 1.16 of the UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2007, of new runways at *(a)* Stansted and *(b)* Heathrow would accrue to (i) UK and (ii) non-UK residents. [183583]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The breakdown of the monetised costs and benefits from additional capacity at Heathrow and Stansted is given in tables 4.2 and 4.3 (p78-79) of UK Air Passenger Demand and Forecasts (published 2007). The following figures are drawn from these tables.

Breakdown of costs and benefits from additional airport capacity. Net Present Value (NPV), 2006 prices

£ billion

	One additional runway at	
	Stansted (2015)	*Heathrow (2020)*
Generated users	15	9
Existing users	[1]—	[1]—
Freight users	[1]—	[1]—
Producers	2	5
Government	4	3
Carbon	-3	-5
Noise	[2]—	[1]—
Delay Reductions		
Users	[2]—	[2]—
Carbon	[2]—	[2]—
Total benefits	18	12
Infrastructure costs	4	7
Net benefit	14	5

[1] A non-zero impact is estimated, but the result rounds to nought at zero decimal places.

[2] No impact has been estimated.

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to zero decimal places.

2. Heathrow figures are based on "option 1" from the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document, and assume the midpoint of the range of infrastructure costs.

3. The base case for the Stansted option assumes no new runways, while the base case for the Heathrow option assumes an additional runway opens at Stansted in 2015.

The "generated users" benefit measures the benefit to extra passengers of additional capacity. The following table further breaks this down between UK and non-UK residents.

Breakdown of "generated user" benefits from additional airport capacity, NPV, 2006 prices

£ billion

	Stansted	*Heathrow*
UK resident	10	6
Non-UK resident	5	3
Total	15	9

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to zero decimal places.

2. Heathrow figures are based on "option 1" from the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document, and assume the midpoint of the range of infrastructure costs.

3. The base case for the Stansted option assumes no new runways, while the base case for the Heathrow option assumes an additional runway opens at Stansted in 2015.

Aviation: Fuels

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what price for aviation fuel *(a)* for the period to 2030, *(b)* for the period 2030 to 2050 and *(c)* for the period 2050 to 2080 is used by her Department in calculating the economic benefits of new runways in its publication, UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts is assumed. [183581]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts (published 2007) reports the latest air passenger demand forecasts and economic benefits of additional airport capacity. It explains (page 88) that aviation fuel prices were projected by combining the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform projection of crude oil prices with the strong historical relationship between oil and aviation fuel prices.

The following table shows the resulting projections of aviation fuel prices in 2030 (in 2004 prices).

Oil price scenario	*Aviation fuel price, £/litre*
Low	0.11
Central	0.22
High	0.34

UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts also explains (page 48) that, after 2030, demand at each airport with spare capacity is projected to grow at the rate forecast for the five years prior to 2030. Demand at each airport is assumed to grow no further once its capacity is reached. This implicitly assumes oil and aviation fuel prices would be broadly constant after 2030.

The report further shows that the resulting forecasts and economic benefits of additional airport capacity are robust to a range of sensitivity tests, including oil prices.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent assumption of aviation fuel prices is in *(a)* US dollars per barrel and *(b)* pence per litre used by her Department in its calculations of costs. [183582]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts (published 2007) reports the latest air passenger demand forecasts and economic benefits of additional airport capacity. It explains (page 88) that aviation fuel prices were projected by combining the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform projection of crude oil prices with the strong historical relationship between oil and aviation fuel prices.

These projections were made during 2007 from the most recent complete annual outturn data available at the time, which was 2006. The 2006 aviation fuel price was assumed to be $0.53 per litre, or 28 pence per litre.

UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts also shows that the forecasts and economic benefits of additional airport capacity it reports are robust to a range of sensitivity tests, including oil prices. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf

Biofuels: Standards

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards the targets that all petrol and diesel sold in the UK contain a minimum of *(a)* 2.5 per cent. biofuel by April 2008, *(b)* 5 per cent. by 2010 and *(c)* 10 per cent. by 2020. [184890]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will come into effect on 15 April 2008. Under the RTFO, transport fuel suppliers will be required to demonstrate that an increasing percentage of total UK road transport fuel sales is made up of biofuels or other renewable transport fuels. The level of the RTFO rises from 2.5 per cent. in 2008-09 to 5 per cent. in 2010-11. The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) will report regularly on the progress that is being made towards these targets, as well as on the carbon savings and sustainability impacts of the policy. Further details are available via the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa

No target for UK biofuel sales has yet been set for 2020. The level of any target will depend on the outcome of negotiations on the proposed renewable energy directive, issued in draft by the European Commission on 23 January 2008.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Oral Answer of 22 January 2008 to Question 180535, what estimate she has made of the overall cost of making English and Scottish national pensioners' bus passes interchangeable; and what proportion of this cost she would expect to arise from *(a)* the use of Scottish bus passes in England and *(b)* the use of English bus passes in Scotland. [182078]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 January 2008]:* In 2006, discussions were held with the Scottish Executive about reciprocal arrangements for concessionary travel. These identified technical and financial implications that would need to be resolved before there could be further extensions to national schemes, for example, how operators will be properly reimbursed (given the differing arrangements in place in the three areas) by whom, and whether the terms of the three different concessions would have to be aligned (which would be very expensive).

However, that does not prevent local authorities from making arrangements for cross-border travel, should they wish to do so.

Our current focus remains on ensuring a successful introduction of the new England-wide concession on 1 April and at this stage we have made no detailed assessment of the cost of introducing mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes between Scotland, Wales and England.

Bus Services: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the central Government grant to Transport for London does not cover buses which cross the boundary into Hertfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [183777]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport is the main source of external funding for Transport for London (TfL) through the GLA Transport Grant. However, the GLA Act does not allow any conditions to be attached to this grant. The use of funding from Government is a matter for TfL and the Mayor.

TfL can and does support many bus services which run into Hertfordshire and other counties.

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid by her Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by her Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if she will make a statement. [180694]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. The following table shows the total value of payments made by the Department to the Capita Group plc. and its subsidiaries in each complete financial year since then.

Period (financial year)	*Total expenditure (£)*
2002-03[1]	3,192,366
2003-04	14,057,908
2004-05	12,188,065
2005-06	12,762,377
2006-07	16,235,816
Total	58,436,532

[1] Starting from 1 May 2002.

A further table showing the 'contracts awarded' by the Department to the Capita Group plc. and its subsidiaries since 1 May 2002 and up to 31 March 2007 has been placed in the House of Commons Library. This table shows the contract title, start and current end date and the estimated value of each contract and, where it has been possible to identify them, those orders raised against framework arrangements.

The other questions could be answered only at disproportionate cost. However the relevant key themes for all procurement in the Department are:

Fair and open competition;

Value for money—based on quality and whole life cost; and

Adherence with the policy and regulatory framework.

Unsatisfactory performance and default are dealt with by specific contract terms and conditions. These include provision to withhold or reduce payment or may entitle the Department to compensation for loss brought about by delay or poor performance.

A contract may be awarded on the basis that it can, subject to satisfactory performance and to business need, be extended without further competition. Other renewals are subject to specific, delegated, approval levels.

Cycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to provide funding to complete the Sustrans network as part of the Government's cycling strategy. [183046]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has just announced a new £140 million funding programme for cycling. Cycling England will be responsible for the detailed delivery and direction of it. There is a commitment set out in "A Sustainable Future for Cycling" to provide 250 links to schools, which will form part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) and to build other infrastructure, such as cycling routes to business parks, which are also likely to be a part of the NCN.

In addition, there is a commitment to extend the successful Cycling Demonstration Towns programme by building on the success of the six existing locations with up to 10 new towns and cities and one large conurbation. We do not yet know how much new cycling infrastructure these towns and cities will build, although doubtless some of it will take the form of extensions to the NCN.

In addition, Sustrans was awarded £50 million in December 2007 from the 'Peoples Millions' lottery for their Connect2 programme. This will provide 79 separate projects to link communities to places they want to access and will in the main form part of the NCN. Local authorities will be match funding these projects, largely from their local transport plan allocation from the Department, of which it is estimated English local authorities (outside London) will spend around £40 million on cycling in 2007-08.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what items of her Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A comprehensive answer, covering all items of expenditure and revenue within the Department, could be produced only at disproportionate cost. The majority of the Department's expenditure and revenue items are determined on an individual grant or contract basis, with each having their own terms and conditions.

However, major items in the Department's accounts that are index linked include:

For rail, the franchise subsidies/premiums and the Network Rail grant are both fixed in real prices, and are uplifted by reference to the retail prices index.

The domestic capacity charge, paid to the London and continental railways to ensure that the high speed rail link is available for domestic services, is uprated in line with the RPI.

The Highways Agency has granted a £60 million subordinated loan to Severn River Crossing plc. The loan is indexed by reference to the RPI and carries an interest rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

The latest private finance initiative schemes entered into by the Highways Agency, under design, build, finance, operate (DBFO) arrangements, are uprated in line with RPI.

Voluntary early retirement pension payments are uprated in line with RPI, where they fall under appropriate provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was generated by each *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone code used for customer enquiry lines by her Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [183953]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following agencies of the Department for Transport have 0870 telephone codes which generated the following revenue over the last five years—no 0845 codes generated revenue:

	DVLA	*DSA*	*VOSA*
2002-03	623,539	[1]—	0
2003-04	874,965	702,326	0
2004-05	1,945,131	706,399	10,386
2005-06	2,423,517	693,254	63,407
2006-07	1,945,131	623,284	72,397
2007-08 to date	2,555,102	404,043	62,894
Comments	0870 numbers	0870 numbers	0870 numbers

[1] Not available.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by her Department and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years. [183295]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. Information for the period prior to this date is not in all cases recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the requested information, where available, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Driving: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date *(a)* she, *(b)* the Permanent Secretary and *(c)* the Department's press office were informed that a computer hard drive containing details of three million learner drivers had been mislaid by Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd. [181501]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The Secretary of State for Transport and the Permanent Secretary were both informed on 28 November 2007.

The Department's press office was informed subsequently in the run up to the Secretary of State's statement to the House on the 17 December 2007.

Eurostar North Pole Depot: Greater London

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the future of the Eurostar North Pole depot in West London. [183455]

Mr. Tom Harris: The transfer of North Pole Depot to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. was completed on 31 January. BRB (Residuary) Ltd. has been asked to provide a valuation and to dispose of the site. Prior to any disposal, there will be a further check with relevant stakeholders to confirm our initial assessment that there is no further rail use for this site.

BRB (Residuary) Ltd. will be asked to follow established and published guidance in consulting with relevant stakeholders on the disposal of the former Eurostar depot at North Pole. The latest guidance was announced to Parliament on 26 July 2007. Copies of that guidance are available in the Library of the House and on the BRB (Residuary) Ltd. website at www.brbr.gov.uk.

Fares: Concessions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the national concessionary fares scheme offers concessions to people with mental health illness; and if she will make a statement. [183632]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The current statutory concession does not include those people with mental health illness. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 does not change the criteria regarding eligibility on age or disability for the national bus concession, to be implemented in April. Those eligible are people aged 60 and over, or people who have one of the seven categories of disability listed in the Transport Act 2000. Local authorities retain their discretion to offer concessionary travel to other groups of people, over and above the statutory minimum, at their own expense.

The Transport Act 2000 defines an eligible disabled person as one who:

(a) is blind or partially sighted;

(b) is profoundly or severely deaf;

(c) is without speech;

(d) has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to walk;

(e) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms;

(f) has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning; or

(g) would, if he applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his application refused pursuant to section 92 of that Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

First Capital Connect

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the performance of First Capital Connect in meeting its *(a)* rail franchise obligations and *(b)* targets; and if she will make a statement. [184528]

Mr. Tom Harris: To date First Capital Connect has delivered all the franchise obligations that it was due to meet.

First Capital Connect has met each of the three performance benchmarks specified in the Franchise Agreement in each of the railway periods it has been in operation.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the action taken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency with respect to Mr. Paul Waugh. [184489]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has not taken any action against Mr. Paul Waugh nor do they have any plans to do so. Mr. Waugh has left the Coastguard Rescue Service.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidents reported to the police in the last five years involved motor vehicles without *(a)* a valid MOT certificate and *(b)* up to date car tax; [184771]

(2) how many motor vehicle accidents reported to the police in the last five years involved drivers with no valid insurance. [184772]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Motorcycles: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to protect those using rural footpaths and trails from irresponsibly driven off-road vehicles. [178594]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

We have produced enforcement guidance to deal with the inappropriate use of vehicles off road. This guidance sets out the extensive statutory powers already available to deal with the misuse and draws on existing best practice examples of police and local authorities working in successful partnerships.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider harmonising motorway speed limits in England with those on equivalent roads in France and Germany; and if she will make a statement. [184400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department focuses its attention on making sure the motorway speed limit, as with all other speed limits, remain appropriate for UK roads, and has no plans to consider harmonising the UK motorway speed limit with any other country.

Network Rail

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what systems are operated by the Office of Rail Regulation for the proactive monitoring of Network Rail's compliance with Condition 7 (network stewardship) of its network licence; [180873]

(2) when the review of Network Rail's network licence being undertaken by the Office of Rail Regulation will be concluded; and when its results will be published; [180876]

(3) what systems are operated by the Office of Rail Regulation for the proactive monitoring of Network Rail's compliance with the dependent persons code of practice established by Network Rail under Condition 25 of its network licence. [180877]

Mr. Tom Harris: The monitoring of Network Rail's compliance with its network licence and any review of the licence are matters for the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

ORR informs me that it has in place robust processes regularly to review and assess Network Rail's compliance with its network licence and that it will investigate promptly any complaints by Network Rail's customers in relation to breach of Condition 25 of its licence.

The ORR informs me that it aims to complete its review of Network Rail's network licence during the 2008-09 business year.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the contracts between the Office of Rail Regulation and the regulatory reporters appointed under Condition 23 of Network Rail's network licence. [180874]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is an independent body. It is a matter for ORR, with the agreement of its reporters and Network Rail, who are both parties to the contract, whether to publish these contracts. However, the ORR informs me that the contract specification was published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union at the time of tendering for the reporter.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the chairman and *(b)* chief executive of Network Rail on that organisation's proposals for new high speed lines in the UK. [183614]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State regularly meets Network Rail to discuss a range of issues of common interest.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1821W, on Network Rail, on what date the meeting with Iain Coucher on 3 January 2008 was arranged; and when the most recent previous meeting with a senior executive of Network Rail took place. [184808]

Mr. Tom Harris: The meeting between the Secretary of State for Transport and Iain Coucher on 3 January 2008 was arranged that day.

The previous meeting between the Secretary of State and a senior executive of Network Rail took place on 13 November 2007.

Parking

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what records her Department keeps of the number of successful appeals against local authorities for local authority parking enforcement measures. [184481]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 297W, given to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers).

Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purpose her Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179322]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Code", and section 4.4 of the "Civil Service Management Code".

Members of the public who apply for public appointments within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are asked to complete a declaration on political activity.

Railway Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 547W, on railway stations, which stations have been *(a)* opened and *(b)* re-opened since 1 May 1997. [181624]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows:

Stations opened since 1 May 1997::

Ashchurch for Tewkesbury
Rugeley Town
Euxton Balshaw Lane
Brunswick
Dalgety Bay
Drumfrochar
Whitwell
Creswell
Langwith Whaley Thorns
Shirebrook
Conway Park
Canning Town
West Ham
West Brompton
Norwich Parkway
Luton Airport Parkway
Dunfermline Queen Margaret
Wavertree Technology Park
Lea Green
Warwick Parkway
How Wood
Newcraighall
Brunstane
Edinburgh Park
Braintree Freeport
Glasshoughton
Gartcosh
Rhoose Cardiff International Airport
Llantwit Major
Kelvindale
Larkhall
Merryton
Chatelherault
Liverpool South Parkway
Llanharan
Coleshill Parkway

Stations reopened:

Brighouse
Beauly
Chandlers Ford

Railways for All

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the schedule is for the completion of the Railways for All programme. [184328]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail plan to complete step free routes at around 45 stations up to 2009, a further 45 between 2009 and 2011 and at least 40 between 2012 and 2015. The timing for individual stations is available on Network Rail's website:

www.networkrail.co.uk

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stations have been identified as requiring access improvements under the Railways for All strategy; and how many have been improved under this strategy. [184329]

Mr. Tom Harris: The consultation behind the strategy identified that over two thirds of the country's 2,500 stations, many of which date from the 19th century, could benefit from a range of access improvements including new customer information systems, lifts and ramps.

132 stations in England and Wales, and eight in Scotland have so far been identified to receive obstacle free, accessible routes. To date, three have been completed with 45 targeted by 2009.

In addition, the Railways for All Small Scheme Programme is currently part funding smaller scale access enhancements at over 500 stations.

Railways: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time-tabled journey time by train from St. Albans to London was in each of the last 10 years. [184525]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average travel time between St. Albans and London is outlined in the following table:

	Journey time in minutes	
	From London	*To London*
1997	20	21
1998	19	21
1999	19	21
2000	19	21
2001	19	20
2002	20	21
2003	20	20
2004	21	23
2005	21	22
2006	21	22
2007	2[illegible]	22

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* punctuality and reliability levels and *(b)* passengers in excess numbers were for rail services on the St. Albans to London route in each month since January 2005. [184530]

Mr. Tom Harris: First Capital Connect (FCC) is not required to report punctuality and reliability statistics at service group level as part of its franchise agreement. FCC reports punctuality as a whole across its business and the Public Performance Measure (PPM) Moving Annual Average (MAA) has increased from 87.56 per cent. in April 2006 to 89.52 per cent. in the latest railway period for which statistics are available.

There are no specific requirements regarding levels of crowding on FCC's routes. The Department's general requirements for crowding are that passengers should not be expected to stand for more than 20 minutes. The franchise agreement does contain a capacity provision benchmark which gets progressively more challenging over the life of the franchise. To date FCC has achieved the required standard in every railway period since the franchise commenced.

Railways: West Yorkshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reasons have been identified for the recent disruptions of railway services between Hebdon Bridge and Wakefield in the vicinity of Elland; what estimate she has made of the cost of bringing services back to normal; how long such repairs are likely to take; what steps she is taking to reduce the risk of similar disruptions in the future; and if she will make a statement. [184402]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Ian Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by her Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183351]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies maintain the policy that road traffic violations such as parking tickets and speeding fines remain the responsibility of the individual and are not reimbursed from public resources. The main exception to this is the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) which pays parking tickets when they arise operationally in circumstances where the overriding security requirements necessarily dictate the choice of parking location.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) also pays parking fines under exceptional circumstances such as during court appearances.

The following outlines the cost to the public purse for parking tickets in each of the last 10 complete financial years:

	£
1999-2000	2,610
2000-01	1,820
2001-02	2,760
2002-03	4,900
2003-04	7,570
2004-05	5,610
2005-06	7,500
2006-07	5,990

Of these figures, VOSA contributed £30 towards one parking ticket in 2005-06 and £90 towards one parking ticket in 2006-07.

All monetary values are rounded to the nearest £10.

Complete records detailing the actual number of parking tickets and speeding fines issued for vehicles used by the Department in each of the last 10 years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by each highway authority on *(a)* highway maintenance, *(b)* compensation for personal injury and *(c)* damage caused to vehicles as a result of inadequate maintenance of highways in the latest year for which figures are available. [178895]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local highways authorities in England reported spending a total of £3.7 billion on highways maintenance in 2006-07. Figures for individual authorities are given in the following table. Information about the amounts disbursed by local authorities on compensation for personal injury and damage caused to vehicles is not collected centrally.

LA	*Region*	*Overall outturn (£000)*
Bedfordshire	E	25,100
Cambridgeshire	E	37,265
Essex	E	96,485
Hertfordshire	E	83,574
Luton UA	E	6,713
Norfolk	E	67,956
Peterborough UA	E	12,734
Southend-on-Sea UA	E	9,222
Suffolk	E	55,190
Thurrock UA	E	6,404
City of Nottingham UA	EM	12,123
Derby City UA	EM	18,679
Derbyshire	EM	57,128
Leicester City UA	EM	13,785
Leicestershire	EM	47,091
Lincolnshire	EM	56,942
Northamptonshire	EM	34,385
Nottinghamshire	EM	39,079
Rutland UA	EM	3,633
Barking and Dagenham	L	10,853
Barnet	L	17,901
Bexley	L	12,828
Brent	L	21,303
Bromley	L	18,934
Camden	L	17,722
City of London	L	10,420
Croydon	L	12,482
Ealing	L	13,370
Enfield	L	22,597
Greater London Authority	L	245,355
Greenwich	L	13,704
Hackney	L	20,499
Hammersmith and Fulham	L	11,703
Haringey	L	9,700
Harrow	L	17,107
Havering	L	9,780
Hillingdon	L	13,136
Hounslow	L	14,084
Islington	L	12,269
Kensington and Chelsea	L	14,786
Kingston upon Thames	L	11,745
Lambeth	L	9,694
Lewisham	L	10,157
Merton	L	11,740
Newham	L	10,987
Redbridge	L	12,991
Richmond upon Thames	L	11,358
Southwark	L	12,992
Button	L	8,423
Tower Hamlets	L	10,316
Waltham Forest	L	12,455
Wandsworth	L	10,239
Westminster	L	27,628
Darlington UA	NE	5,453
Durham	NE	31,339
Gateshead	NE	13,177
Hartlepool UA	NE	5,371
Middlesbrough UA	NE	8,638
Newcastle upon Tyne	NE	21,526
North Tyneside	NE	13,437
Northumberland	NE	40,378
Redcar and Cleveland UA	NE	11,183
South Tyneside	NE	10,101
Stockton-on-Tees UA	NE	19,502
Sunderland	NE	22,087
Blackburn with Darwen UA	NW	11,377
Blackpool UA	NW	15,084
Bolton	NW	25,762
Bury	NW	11,765
Cheshire	NW	48,475
Cumbria	NW	36,478
Halton UA	NW	14,080
Knowsley	NW	8,614
Lancashire	NW	73,823
Liverpool	NW	44,246
Manchester	NW	26,383
Oldham	NW	15,937
Rochdale	NW	13,706
Salford	NW	19,706
Sefton	NW	17,632
St. Helens	NW	9,030
Stockport	NW	12,839
Tameside	NW	14,564
Trafford	NW	12,174

LA	*Region*	*Overall outturn (£000)*
Warrington UA	NW	9,430
Wigan	NW	15,239
Wirral	NW	15,715
Bracknell Forest UA	SE	6,412
Brighton and Hove UA	SE	9,370
Buckinghamshire	SE	25,605
East Sussex	SE	31,781
Hampshire	SE	63,518
Isle of Wight UA	SE	6,476
Kent	SE	76,481
Milton Keynes UA	SE	12,331
Oxfordshire	SE	59,078
Portsmouth UA	SE	13,635
Reading UA	SE	5,920
Slough UA	SE	6,657
Southampton UA	SE	11,152
Surrey	SE	70,583
The Medway Towns UA	SE	13,132
West Berkshire UA	SE	10,646
West Sussex	SE	49,681
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	SE	6,507
Wokingham UA	SE	8,449
Bath and North East Somerset UA	SW	9,725
Bournemouth UA	SW	6,993
Bristol UA	SW	11,682
Cornwall	SW	45,592
Devon	SW	73,623
Dorset	SW	31,452
Gloucestershire	SW	43,678
Isles of Scilly	SW	115
North Somerset UA	SW	10,861
Plymouth UA	SW	9,904
Poole UA	SW	9,229
Somerset	SW	63,488
South Gloucestershire UA	SW	17,669
Swindon UA	SW	9,459
Torbay UA	SW	7,201
Wiltshire	SW	34,641
Birmingham	WM	48,648
Coventry	WM	33,501
Dudley	WM	25,412
Herefordshire UA	WM	14,651
Sandwell	WM	15,401
Shropshire	WM	33,755
Solihull	WM	17,995
Staffordshire	WM	54,929
Stoke-on-Trent UA	WM	16,627
Telford and the Wrekin UA	WM	10,101
Walsall	WM	27,378
Warwickshire	WM	29,093
Wolverhampton	WM	13,154
Worcestershire	WM	36,344
Barnsley	Y and H	14,664
Bradford	Y and H	27,652
Calderdale	Y and H	17,203
Doncaster	Y and H	16,866
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	Y and H	26,091
Kingston upon Hull UA	Y and H	15,951
Kirklees	Y and H	34,243
Leeds	Y and H	61,678
North East Lincolnshire UA	Y and H	12,007
North Lincolnshire UA	Y and H	22,617
North Yorkshire	Y and H	53,212
Rotherham	Y and H	18,887
Sheffield	Y and H	28,027
Wakefield	Y and H	24,673
York UA	Y and H	11,245

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average weight of a two-car train in the EU-15 was in the latest year for which figures are available. [184192]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Rolling Stock: Safety

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the Health and Safety Executive's report on the safety of type 142 carriages; what assessment she has made of the suitability of type 142 stock for use on the Manchester-Southport line; what reports she has received of *(a)* safety and *(b)* overcrowding issues on this service; and if she will make a statement. [184316]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the publication of the Health and Safety Executive report into the train accident at Winsford South Junction on 23 June 1999, the rail industry has taken forward a programme to make improvements to the crashworthiness of class 142 vehicles. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), the current regulator for rail safety, has been monitoring industry progress on implementing this programme.

Train operating companies are responsible for deploying appropriate rolling stock to meet the capacity demands for the train services they operate. The ORR has received six complaints about safety and crowding issues on Northern Rail services generally since April 2007.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W, on Severn Bridge: tolls, what defined amount is required to be raised by the Severn Bridge toll; and how much has been collected in tolls to date. [184330]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The defined amount, known as the Required Cumulative Real Revenue, is £995,830,000. On the same basis (July 1989 prices), the Accumulative Real Revenue of tolls collected up until 1 July 2007 is £587,000,000.

The final 2007 toll revenue figure is not yet available.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Islam

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Islamic scholars are employed by her Department [illegible] advise on the Prevent strand of Project Contest. [183319]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not employ any Islamic scholars to advise on the Prevent strand of Contest.

Council Tax: Parking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data the Valuation Office Agency collects for council tax valuation and revaluation purposes on *(a)* off-street parking space, *(b)* the number of parking spaces and *(c)* the amount of garage space associated residential property. [178686]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency collects data on the number of *(a)* off-street parking spaces, *(b)* parking spaces and *(c)* garage spaces which form part of a dwelling for the purpose of its responsibilities in maintaining the current council tax lists.

Council Tax: Payments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in England do not allow council taxpayers to pay their council tax in cash over post office counters. [184093]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Accountancy

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what accounts were submitted for audit by her Department in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will place a copy of each submission in the Library. [184335]

Mr. Dhanda: The audited resource accounts for 2006-07 (the last period available) were laid in the House of Commons on 12 July 2007, and published by the Stationery Office on that date (HC 836). They were published on the Communities website on 16 August 2007.

Departmental Expert Panels

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of her Department's external expert panels. [182568]

Mr. Dhanda: In response to the Department's capability review, the Department set up three expert panels to provide analytical advice in the following policy areas:

(i) housing markets and planning;

(ii) neighbourhoods, cities and regions; and

(iii) housing and communities (social and affordable housing).

Membership of the respective panels is shown in the following tables A1, A2 and A3 respectively.

Table A1: Membership of the Housing Markets and Planning Analysis (HMPA) Expert Panel

Panel	Organisation	Notes
Lead panel member		
Professor Michael Ball.	Reading University	
Panel members		
David Adams	Glasgow University	
Peter Bibby	Sheffield University	
Neil Blake[1]	Experian.	also on NCRA panel
Glen Bramley	Heriot Watt University	
Paul Cheshire[1]	LSE	also on NCRA panel
Christopher Cobbold	DTZ	
Simin Davoudi	Newcastle University	
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University	also on NCRA and HCA panel
Alan Evans	Reading University	
Diana Kasparova	Policy Studies Institute	
Dave King	Anglia University	
Philip Leather	Salford University	
Chris Leishman	Glasgow University	
Alex Marsh[1]	Bristol University	also on HCA panel
Geoffrey Meen[1]	Reading University	also on NCRA panel
John Muellbauer	Oxford University	
Gwilym Pryce	Glasgow University	
Yvonne Rydin	UCL	
Christine Whitehead	LSE	
Peter Williams[1]	Independent Consultant	Also on HCA panel
Cecilia Wong	Manchester University	

Table A2: Membership of the Neighbourhoods, Cities and Regions (NCRA) Expert Panel

Panel	Organisation	Notes
Lead panel member		
Michael Parkinson	Liverpool John Moores University	
Panel members		
Neil Blake[1]	Experian	joint with HMPA
Paul Cheshire[1]	LSE	joint with HMPA
Ian Cole[1]	Sheffield Hallam University	joint with HCA
Mike Coombes	Newcastle University	

Table A2: Membership of the Neighbourhoods, Cities and Regions (NCRA) Expert Panel

Panel	Organisation	Notes
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University	joint all three panels
Ian Gordon	LSE	
Anne Green	Warwick University	
Carol Hayden	Shared Intelligence	
Adrian Healy	ECOTEC	
Paul Lawless[1]	Sheffield Hallam University	joint with HCA
Geoff Meen[1]	Reading University	joint with HMPA
Henry Overman	LSE	
Anne Power	LSE	
Patricia Rice	Oxford University	
Graham Russell	Amion	
Ludi Simpson	Manchester University	
Stephen Syrett	Middlesex University	
Vince Taylor	Vince Taylor Assoc	
Ivan Turok	Glasgow University	
Peter Tyler[1]	Cambridge University	joint with HCA

Table A3: Membership of the Housing and Communities (HCA) Expert Panel

Panel	Organisation	Notes
Lead panel member		
Professor Mark Stephens	York University	
Panel members[1]		
Jeff Austin	Independent Consultant	
Shaun Bennett	Civis Consultants	
Bob Blackaby	Independent Consultant	
Tim Blackman	Durham University	
Ian Cole[1]	Sheffield Hallam University	also on NCRA panel
David Cowan	Bristol University	
Danny Dorling[1]	Sheffield University	also on NCRA and HMPA panel
Suzanne Fitzpatrick	York University	
Kenneth Gibb	Glasgow University	
David Hall	Tribal Group	
Adrian Jones	Independent Researcher	
Michael Jones	Cambridge University	
Paul Lawless	Sheffield Hallam University	also on NCRA panel
Alex Marsh	Bristol University	also on HMPA panel
Sarah Monk	Cambridge University	
David Mullins	Birmingham University	
David Ormandy	Warwick University	
Hal Pawson	Heriot Watt University	
Rob Rowlands	Birmingham University	
Rebecca Tunstall	LSE	
Peter Tyler[1]	Cambridge University	also on NCRA panel
Peter Williams[1]	Independent Consultant	also on HMPA panel

[1] Denotes membership of more than one expert panel

Derelict Land: Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the Statistical Note on Land Use Change of January 1985 on *(a)* planning policy and *(b)* planning decisions in relation to brownfield land. [178660]

Caroline Flint: Unfortunately my officials have been unable to identify a Statistical Note on Land Use Change from January 1985.

Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS) have been collected since 1985, with the first report being published in 1986. Land use was divided into 24 categories and these categories are still used today.

Electronic Government

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the take-up rate has been of Government Connect by local authorities; [182564]

(2) what use her Department is making of Government Connect to share and transfer data with and to local authorities. [182572]

Mr. Dhanda: Currently we have placed orders with Cable and Wireless for 111 connections for the Government Connect Secure Infrastructure (GCSx). This will provide GCSx services to 155 local authorities. This represents a local authority take-up of 35 per cent. across England and Wales. In due course we plan to connect to all local authorities.

The initial piloting work between Government and local authorities is on housing benefits (lead by DWP). We expect the work to provide valuable lessons for further cross-government development of Government Connect.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the FireControl Strategic Outline Business Case. [183335]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: A copy of the outline business case (published in November 2004) and the latest version 1.0. (published in June 2007) has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the full combined costs, including VAT, are of the interim solutions for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* FireLink projects. [183336]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* There are prudent budgets in place within Firelink for achieving the Firelink interim solution and these amounts are commercially confidential at the present time. Expenditure for these purposes is not liable to VAT. There are no interim solutions for FiReControl.

Fire Services: Radio

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals there are for testing radio coverage from resilient base stations under the FireLink Project; and if she will make a statement. [183464]

Mr. Dhanda: The contractor is responsible for undertaking coverage testing, and has submitted proposals to the FireLink Project team which are currently being considered.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outcome of discussions to date between her Department and the *(a)* police and *(b)* ambulance services on proposals for testing of radio coverage from resilient base stations under the FireLink Project has been; and if she will make a statement. [183465]

Mr. Dhanda: At a project level counterparts in the police and ambulance services have been made aware of our proposals for testing resilient base stations under the FireLink contract and are continuing on future options for joint testing.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of funding allocated to Gloucestershire for *(a)* flood recovery and *(b)* the introduction of flood prevention measures has been drawn down. [178791][1]

John Healey: To date £14,844,900 has been awarded to councils within Gloucestershire to support their recovery from the floods last summer. This includes £2,632,000 in Flood Recovery Grant, paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government to the county's six district councils to support flood affected communities. It is for authorities in receipt of grant to decide how to use and distribute any funding locally.

Flood-affected local authorities have also been able to apply to Communities and Local Government for help through the Bellwin scheme which provides financial assistance to local authorities dealing with emergencies. Exceptionally, the terms of the present schemes have been made more generous because of the circumstances of the recent floods. Gloucestershire county council received an interim payment of £1.1 million to help with its costs in clearing up after last summer's floods and Gloucester city council received an interim payment of £114,000. Both may receive further payments once they submit final claims. Claims have also recently been received from Gloucestershire police, Worcester city council, Cheltenham borough council and Cotswold district council.

Gloucestershire county council was allocated £1,007,900 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Department of Transport has agreed to provide Gloucestershire with £10,000,000 for the repairs required to local roads. Assessments are continuing and further funding is expected to be confirmed when that work is complete.

The Environment Agency's estimated annual spend in Gloucestershire on controlling development, flood warning and awareness, flood risk mapping, maintenance of flood defences and watercourses is £1.5 million. They have spent an estimated extra £400,000 in Gloucestershire since the summer floods of 2007 on flood recovery, data collection, watercourse maintenance and repairs to flood defence assets.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the levels of insurance against flooding amongst public authorities who own public sector housing. [178793]

John Healey: We do not hold detailed information about local authority insurance provision.

Local authorities have a duty under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 to ensure that they have a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of their functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk (regulation 4).

Guidance issued by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy on local authority reserves and balances lists "the adequacy of the authority's insurance arrangements to cover major unforeseen risks" as one of the factors authorities should consider in deciding the level of their general reserves (LAAP Bulletin 55).

This guidance is available at:

http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/laap.cfm

Communities and Local Government (CLG) wrote to all local authority chief executives on 15 November 2007 to recommend that they review their decisions in respect of insurance cover for flooding to ensure they are satisfied with the arrangements and level of cover in place in their authority. CLG suggested they do so whether or not they experienced flooding this year.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative cost of the European Unit in each Government Office for the Regions was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [182250]

Mr. Dhanda: The administrative costs of the European Units in each Government Office in 2006-07 are set out in the following table. The cost figures reflect the different sizes of the programmes managed by each office.

Government Office for the Region	*Administration costs (£)*
North East	1,032,561
North West	1,277,243

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[1] *[Official Report, 18 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1MC.]*

Government Office for the Region	*Administration costs (£)*
Yorks and Humber	1,274,343
West Midlands	636,770
East Midlands	943,851
East	662,637
South East	767,754
South West	1,646,641
London	972,525
Total	9,214,325

Government Offices for the Regions: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff work in the European Unit in each Government office for the regions. [182098]

Mr. Dhanda: The latest figures available for the number of full-time equivalent staff working in the European Units of each Government office are as set out in the following table. The figures are for the FTE numbers in December 2007, with the exception of GO north-east when the information is from November 2007. The range of staff numbers reflects the different sizes of the programmes managed.

Government office	*FTEs*
North East	48.5
North West	79.6
Yorks and Humber	38.6
West Midlands	30.3
East Midlands	37.3
East	24.8
South East	21.9
South West	48.5
London	29.4
Total	358.9

Greater London Authority: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the *(a)* Audit Commission, *(b)* District Auditor and *(c)* Local Government Ombudsman play in (i) auditing and (ii) considering complaints relating to (A) the Greater London Authority and (B) the London Development Agency. [182086]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

Audit Commission

The Audit Commission is an independent body with statutory responsibilities to regulate the audit of local government bodies and NHS bodies in England. The Commission's statutory responsibilities in relation to audit are set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998. They are to:

appoint auditors to local government and NHS bodies;

prescribe how auditors should carry out their functions through a statutory Code of Audit Practice, which is approved by Parliament at five-yearly intervals;

set scales of fees for audit work; and

make arrangements for certifying grant claims and returns.

The Commission appoints professionally qualified auditors, known as district auditors, from its own staff and also private firms of auditors. Once appointed, auditors carry out their statutory and other responsibilities, and are required by the Code of Audit Practice to exercise their professional judgment, independently of the Commission.

The statutory independence of auditors means that the Commission cannot:

interfere with an appointed auditor's exercise of his or her professional skill and judgment in performing his or her statutory functions;

substitute its own judgments for those of an appointed auditor in the exercise of those functions; or

direct an appointed auditor to act or to review his or her decisions, as only the courts have the powers to do so.

The Commission appoints the auditors to the GLA and its associated bodies including the LDA.

Quite apart from its audit functions, the Commission also has powers to carry out inspections of best value authorities (which include the LDA and some functions of the GLA) under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999.

District auditors (appointed auditor)

The Audit Commission Act 1998 sets out the specific statutory duties of appointed auditors. They are:

to comply with the Code of Audit Practice;

to give an opinion on the financial statements of the audited body;

to satisfy themselves that the accounts comply with statutory requirements and have been compiled in accordance with proper practices;

to satisfy themselves that the audited body has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and

to certify completion of the audit.

In addition, auditors of local government bodies have other statutory duties and powers:

to consider issuing a public interest report about any matter that comes to their attention during the audit, which they judge should be considered by the audited body or brought to public attention;

for local government bodies (which includes the GLA and LDA):

(a) to decide whether the audited body should consider formally, and respond to in public, matters raised in an audit report;

(b) to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the accounts, and consider and decide on objections received from electors about the accounts; and

(c) where unlawful expenditure has been or is about to be incurred by an audited body, to issue an advisory notice, to apply to the courts for a declaration that an item of account is unlawful or apply for judicial review.

The Code of Audit Practice requires that where, in the course of an audit, representations are made to the auditor or information is provided that is relevant to the audit, or matters relevant to the audit otherwise come to their attention, auditors should consider whether the matter needs investigation and action.

Local Government Ombudsman

The Local Government Ombudsman is an independent body charged by Part III of the Local Government Act 1974, as amended, with investigating complaints against local authorities, including the

Greater London Authority and the London Development Agency, alleging maladministration causing injustice.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Local Government Ombudsman can deal with complaints of maladministration by *(a)* the London Development Agency and *(b)* the Greater London Authority. [183236]

John Healey: Yes.

Green Belt: Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Homes and Communities Agency is planned to have powers to *(a)* remove green belt planning protection and *(b)* approve planning applications for development on green belt land. [183261]

Caroline Flint: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will not have planning powers as of right. However, on the rare occasions that the Secretary of State determines to designate an area she may also choose to confer powers on the HCA which could be exercised in relation to any green belt in that area.

The scope of the HCA's powers in relation to green belt will depend upon which planning functions are conferred upon the HCA in the designation order.

If the designation order confers development plan functions on the HCA, it would be able to propose alterations to green belt boundaries through the development plan preparation process. However, this would involve a detailed process including public consultation and scrutiny by an independent planning inspector.

Where the HCA is given the power to determine planning applications, the HCA would be able to determine whether development should be allowed in the green belt. Any such decision will need to be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise and in particular the HCA will have to decide whether the benefits of the proposed development would outweigh the harm it would cause.

In either situation, the HCA would be subject to the same requirements as any other local planning authority in terms of complying with the strong protection policies in PPG2.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to *(a)* mark Holocaust Memorial Day and *(b)* commemorate those who died in more recent genocides. [178892]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department took to mark the *(a)* Holocaust and *(b)* more recent genocides on Holocaust Memorial Day. [183832]

Mr. Dhanda: Both the Secretary of State and I attended the Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 national commemoration which took place on 27 January in Liverpool. The commemoration acknowledged the suffering experienced by the victims of other more recent atrocities including Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Homelessness

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was given to local authorities for tackling homelessness in each of the last five years; [183479]

(2) what steps are being taken against local authorities who fail to meet departmental targets on reducing *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* the number of families residing in bed-and-breakfast accommodation; [183480]

(3) how many rough sleepers there were in Chorley borough in the latest period for which figures are available; [183481]

(4) how much was allocated to Chorley borough council for tackling homelessness in each of the last five years; and how that funding has been spent. [183482]

Mr. Iain Wright: Revenue funding for local authority homelessness services is principally provided through revenue support grant which is unhypothecated. The Government additionally provide "homelessness grants" to support local housing authorities' strategies for tackling and preventing homelessness, including rough sleeping. Homelessness grants are also paid to support voluntary sector organisations tackling homelessness.

The following table shows total allocations of homelessness grant, and allocations to Chorley borough council for each of the five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

	Homelessness grant for local authorities and voluntary sector (£m)	*Homelessness grant for Chorley borough council (£000)*
2007-08	74.0	30.0
2006-07	67.0	23.0
2005-06	59.5	23.0
2004-05	60.6	23.0
2003-04	70.9	30.8

On 5 December 2007, we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the three years 2008-11 to continue to support local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

In addition, £90 million capital funding has been made available to local authorities in 2005-08 to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers, to increase skills and training and to raise aspirations. A further £70 million capital funding is being made available in 2008-11 to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

Chorley borough council carried out a rough sleeping count on 30 November 2007 and found no rough sleepers.

We set a target for local authorities to end the use of B&B accommodation for families with children for more than six weeks under the homelessness legislation. This target was achieved by 31 March 2004. Since 1 April 2004, the effect of the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003 is that local authorities are no longer able to discharge a duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) by placing families with children in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer than six weeks. Authorities may be challenged by homeless households and their representatives in the courts if they fail to comply.

Local authorities are on track to meet our challenging target of halving the number of households living in temporary accommodation provided under the homelessness legislation (down to 50,500) by 2010.

In cases where local authorities may be experiencing difficulties in tackling homelessness and meeting the Government's temporary accommodation target, this Department has a team of specialist homelessness advisers available to provide support and guidance.

Homelessness: Young People

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of 16 to 25-year-olds who were homeless in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* race, *(b)* sex and *(c)* sexual orientation. [183945]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty, is not collected by specific ages, but data are provided by the age band into which the applicant falls, the first of which is those applicants who are aged between 16 and 24-years-old (all applicants must be 16 or over). These data are provided in Table 10 of our Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 December 2007 and contains data for the period July to September 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatisticsby/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data by age band are not disaggregated further by race, gender, or sexuality. However, the total number of accepted households is disaggregated by (a) ethnicity and (b) gender. These breakdowns are also provided in the Statistical Release (Tables 2 and 10).

Incinerators

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on *(a)* planning for and *(b)* building of incinerators for waste disposal. [178815]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has regular discussions with Communities and Local Government (CLG) about a wide range of issues, including sustainable waste management. Decisions on planning for residual waste treatment rest with local authorities rather than central Government. It is also local authorities, in conjunction with the waste industry, that build waste facilities.

The number of new incinerators built will depend on the technologies and scale of facilities chosen by local authorities. Guidance on planning for waste facilities is contained within planning policy statement 10, published by CLG in July 2005.

Recycling rates are growing fast, but there will always be some wastes that cannot be recycled. 11 per cent. of waste is currently incinerated in England, but an increase is likely to be needed to be able to meet landfill directive targets, despite big improvements in waste recycling and minimisation. Recovering energy from waste (including via incineration) offers a considerable climate change benefit compared to the alternative of landfill. This is primarily through avoided landfill methane emissions, with energy generated from the biodegradable fraction of waste also offsetting fossil fuel power generation.

Local Authorities: Publications

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on local authorities: publications, if she will place in the Library a copy of the pamphlet pack. [178900]

John Healey: A copy of Combating Misinformation Fact Cards for Local Authorities has been placed in the Library and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/combatingmisinformation.

Local Government Finance: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government funding was allocated to Warrington borough council in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each of the last five years; and what the percentage increase in funding was in each such year (i) on each preceding year and (ii) taking 2000-01 as year one and 100 per cent. [183544]

John Healey: The central Government funding to Warrington borough council in each of the past five years in cash and real terms (at 2006-07 prices) and the percentage increase in funding in each such year on each preceding year and 2000-01 respectively is as follows.

	£000	*Percentage increase on preceding year*	*Percentage increase on 2000-01*	*Index (2000-01 =100)*
Cash terms				
2002-03	137,423	4.1	11.8	111.8
2003-04	161,542	17.6	31.4	131.4
2004-05	167,085	3.4	35.9	135.9

	£000	*Percentage increase on preceding year*	*Percentage increase on 2000-01*	*Index (2000-01 =100)*
2005-06	177,286	6.1	44.2	144.2
2006-07	188,825	6.5	53.6	153.6
Real terms (2006-07 prices)				
2002-03	152,636	0.9	5.9	105.9
2003-04	174,372	14.2	20.9	120.9
2004-05	175,509	0.7	21.7	121.7
2005-06	182,372	3.9	26.5	126.5
2006-07	188,825	3.5	31.0	131.0

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns

The large difference between 2002-03 and 2003-04 is mainly due to the increase in revenue support grant and the introduction of Supporting People programme specific grant from 1 April 2003.

Central Government funding is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

The real terms figures have been revalued for years 2002-03 to 2005-06 at 2006-07 prices using the latest HM Treasury GDP deflators.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Minister for London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits the Minister for London has made to Hammersmith and Fulham in her capacity as such. [183016]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for Olympics and London gave a keynote speech on Olympics and local area agreements in London at a conference organised by the Government Office for London, which was held at Chelsea Football Club in November 2007.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have used their discretionary powers to extend the houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing scheme to smaller than those required to be licensed by law HMOs. [184184]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been no formal applications to the Department from local authorities seeking approval for additional HMO licensing schemes.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the commencement of the new regime on empty property business rates will entail tax liability on only properties which have been empty for three to six months after 1 April 2008. [183408]

John Healey: At present, the owner of any property that has been empty for more than three months is liable for empty property rates if none of the other exemptions apply. On and after April 1 2008, the owner of any property that has been empty for more than three months, or six months in the case of industrial buildings, will be liable for empty property rates if none of the exemptions apply. Regulations making the necessary changes will be laid shortly.

Planning Permission: Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times planning decisions have been made contrary to the Environment Agency's advice on flood risk in the latest period for which figures are available. [181109]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W.

Planning: Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses from external organisations and individuals to the recent Planning White Paper consultation. [171510]

Caroline Flint: On 27 November we published the Government's response to consultation on the Planning White Paper. Alongside this report, we also published two detailed background papers. Background Paper A sets out an analysis of the consultation responses and Background Paper B a summary of other comments received on the White Paper and a list of respondents to the Planning White Paper. All these documents are available on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning>/planningpolicyimplementation/reformplanningsystem/planningwhitepaper

However, copies of the individual responses to the Planning White Paper, as discussed in these publications, have not been placed in the Library because of the volume we received. They are available for inspection at Communities and Local Government.

Property: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local billing authorities in England now transfer property information via the Valuebill interface to the Valuation Office Agency. [183216]

John Healey: All local billing authorities in England submit property identifiers to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) via the National Land and Property Gazetteer, utilising electronic interfaces developed in conjunction with Valuebill.

In addition, since 1 January 2007, 147 local authorities in England have submitted billing authority reports to the Valuation Office Agency via electronic interfaces developed through Valuebill.

Rates and Rating

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's definition is of an outbuilding for *(a)* council tax valuation and *(b)* business rate valuation purposes. [183214]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1731W.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* parking tickets and *(b)* speeding fines were issued for vehicles used by her Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse of those penalties was in each year. [183364]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) were created following the Machinery of Government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002, respectively.

CLG operates a general policy whereby the payment of any fixed penalty tickets (including parking tickets and speeding fines), either during the hire period of a vehicle or while a private car is being used on official business, is the responsibility of the individual undertaking the travel and not the Department. However, payment of parking tickets (not speeding fines) relating to allocated ministerial cars, incurred while carrying out official duties, is deemed to be the responsibility of the Department. Since the inception of ODPM, the annual amount incurred by the Department for payments of such parking tickets is as follows:

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	141.00
2004-05	117.50
2005-06	100.00
2006-07	200.00
2007-08 to date	110.00

Expenditure figures prior to 2002-03 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Smoke Alarms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to encourage more people to fit smoke alarms since 1997. [184115]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The Government are committed to encouraging all households to have a working smoke alarm. My Department has invested £25 million over four years (2004-08) to provide fire and rescue services with capital grants to install smoke alarms in the most vulnerable homes. The long-standing Fire Kills media campaign has as its central focus the importance of working smoke alarms and is currently running a TV advertising campaign to raise levels of awareness.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to prevent conflicts of interest arising following meetings and other contacts between her Ministers and officials and representatives of housebuilding companies seeking to build eco-towns; and if she will make a statement. [184932]

Caroline Flint: At this stage in the process, my officials are working with colleagues in other Departments and agencies to undertake a cross-government review of the eco-towns expressions of interest. Where necessary, they have been contacting developers to seek clarification of information submitted in the expression of interest. They are also contacting local authorities in the relevant areas covered by proposed eco-town schemes. Following this, we will publish proposals for public consultation, involving local authorities, wider stakeholders and the public before the process is completed.

When potential sites have been identified, they will be determined in the normal way under the Planning Acts, and as set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, there may be circumstances where use of the New Towns Act might be used. I can assure the hon. Member that Ministers and officials will abide by the usual rules of propriety that relate to planning matters during this stage of the process.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings and other contacts have taken place between representatives of Eagle Star and her Ministers and officials in relation to eco towns over the course of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [184933]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations her Department has received from Co-operative Estates on the proposed development near Great Glen in Leicestershire; and what meetings have taken place between her Department and Co-operative Estates on the development; [178915]

(2) what recent representations her Department has received from QinetiQ on the proposed development near Throckmorton in Worcestershire; and what meetings

have taken place between her Department and QinetiQ on the development; [178916]

(3) what recent representations her Department has received from Banks Developments on the proposed development near Cambois; and what meetings have taken place between her Department and Banks Developments on the development; [178917]

(4) what representations her Department has received from GMI Property on the proposed development near Selby in Yorkshire; and what meetings officials from her Department have had with GMI Property where the development has been discussed; [178918]

(5) what *(a)* representations her Department has received from and *(b)* meetings her Department's representatives have had with representatives of Hallam Land Management and Commercial Estates Group in relation to the proposed development in Clifton Moor, Yorkshire. [183322]

Caroline Flint: As one of a number of housing initiatives under way the Government are considering eco-towns, and as part of this have sought expressions of interest from developers and local authorities. To reveal the details of recent meetings and representations from developers when this process is under way would have the potential to be detrimental to the process, and those that have put forward eco-towns proposals.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency paid to Rightmove.co.uk plc in 2006-07. [182402]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the Valuation Office Agency's published Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, available on the VOA's website. Total payment for the year is shown at page 60 under 'Other Operating Costs' against the cost head of 'Data Capture'. *(*

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what agencies under his Department's responsibilities use (a) 0845 and (b) 0870 telephone codes for customer enquiries; how many 0845 or 0870 telephone codes each agency uses; and how much revenue was generated by each of these codes for each agency in each of the last five years. [183962]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Disadvantaged

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what definition of multiple exclusion the Government use; and what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* working age and *(b)* older people who meet this definition; [184814]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of those defined as socially excluded who are *(a)* children, *(b)* adults under state pension age and *(c)* adults over state pension age. [184815]

Phil Hope: There are a number of ways to measure exclusion. One method is to look at people or places that have a combination of linked problems, such as unemployment, discrimination, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime, bad health and family breakdown. Recent analysis by the Social Exclusion Task Force found that around 140,000 families with children (or 2 per cent. of all families with children) in Britain experienced five or more disadvantages in 2004.

Previous work commissioned by the former Social Exclusion Unit found that approximately 1.86 million (or 5.2 per cent.) of working age adults in Britain experienced five or more disadvantages in 2003, down from 2.43 million (or 7 per cent.) in 1997. For pensioners this was 1.8 million people (or 16.8 per cent.), down from 2.37 million (or 23 per cent.) in 1997.

The Social Exclusion Task Force is currently conducting work to update these figures and these will be available in the summer.

Itis Holdings

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what payments the Cabinet Office has made to Itis Holdings in the last 36 months. [184659]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to Itis Holdings in the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Details of any payments made in 2007-08 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess.

Official Residences: Admiralty House

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office has taken steps to rent out the two empty ministerial residences in Admiralty House. [184656]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2175-6W.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and (c) Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184095]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office did not make any grant payments to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in 2006-07.

Figures for 2007-08 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess.

Budgets for 2008-09, including plans for grant payments, will only be finalised following completion of the Cabinet Office's business planning round.

Social Exclusion Unit: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget was for the work of the Social Exclusion Unit and the Social Exclusion Taskforce for each year since 1997; and what the planned budget is for each year covered by the 2007 to 2011 comprehensive spending review. [184817]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 917W; the answers given by the then Minister for Local Government (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 105W and to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 292W; and the answer given by the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Leslie) to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 13 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 420W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Organisations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider the merits of providing financial support to arts organisations in the North of England affected by the decision of the Northern Rock Foundation to stop funding arts and heritage projects. [182112]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's support for the arts is channelled through Arts Council England. The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

The Arts Council is aware of the potential impact of the loss of Northern Rock funding in Cumbria and is actively in discussion with partners and arts organisations in the area to assess the risks and how they can best be addressed.

Cultural Heritage

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Government Ministers or other departmental appointees hold responsibilities for decisions relating to requests from foreign *(a)* Governments and *(b)* cultural institutions relating to artefacts in the collections of British museums. [184406]

Margaret Hodge: It is a long-standing policy of successive Governments in the UK that decisions relating to museum collections are for museum trustees to take, and the Government do not intervene. The Secretary of State appoints some museum trustees but appointments are also made by the Prime Minister, Her Majesty the Queen and others.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182992]

Margaret Hodge: The expenditure on advertising as a percentage of the Department's gross administration cost in each of the last 10 years is shown in the table.

Financial year	*Percentage of gross administration costs*
2006-07	0.34
2005-06	0.38
2004-05	0.34
2003-04	0.58
2002-03	0.56
2001-02	0.05
2000-01	0.07
1999-2000	0.16
1998-99	0.23
1997-98	0.32

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181893]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

2005

Consultants	*Contract*	*Value (£)*	*Availability*
Opis Renewal Consulting	Framework for NDPB reviews	66,900	Published on DCMS website
Hedra PLC	NDPB governance—drafting of good practice guidance	47,600	No published report
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Sponsorship of British Library	24,000	Internal report
KPMG	Olympic Games cost validation	255,000	Internal report
Ubiqus	Summary of consultation exercise re BBC charter review	38,500	Incorporated into final BBC review. Already public
Verdus	Public appointments advice	14,000	No report required
Rockpools	Executive recruitment	30,000	No report required

2005

Consultants	*Contract*	*Value (£)*	*Availability*
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers	Assessment of fees of be charged by authorities under 2003 Licensing Act	29,500	Internal Report
Precedent	Development of DCMS e-communication strategy	27,400	Internal Report

2006

Consultants	*Contract*	*Value (£)*	*Availability*
Frontier Economics	Economic impact of DCMS cultural investment	55,000	Published on DCMS website
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers	Review of library standards	99,000	Used to produce consultation document published by MLA
Deloitte	Olympic programme assurance	50,000	Internal report
Frontier Economics	Live music impact study	42,700	Published on DCMS website
Frontier Economics	Creative industries analysis	50,000	Published on DCMS website
BMG	Preparation for digital switchover of residential and nursing care homes	40,000	Published on DCMS website
Hedra	IT consultancy suppo.'	71,000	Internal report
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers	Development of London 2012 sustainability plan	30,000	
Atisreal	Property/estates advice	246,000	Internal report

2007

Consultants	*Contract*	*Value (£)*	*Availability*
Odgers Ray and Berndston	Executive search/recruitment for chair of ODA	35,000	No report
Saxton Bamfylde Hever	Recruitment of chair of English Heritage	36,000	No report
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers	Assessment of costs and benefits of World Heritage Site (UK)	69,000	Currently ongoing
Deloitte	Review of Olympic programme support unit	99,000	Internal report
Deloitte	Review of ICT security review and compliance	76,000	Internal report
QI Consulting	Development of DCMS ICT strategy	16,200	Internal report
Work Foundation	Consultancy on creative economy programme Green Paper	49,000	Published on DCMS website
QI Consulting	Security audit of business continuity planning	27,300	Internal report
Stanton Marris	DCMS board awayday strategy	24,000	Internal report
TFG	Expert advice of lessons learned from Sydney Olympics	80,000	Project ongoing
OCR LLP	Specialist advice on horserace betting levy	59,400	Internal report
Deloitte	DCMS transformation programme	126,000	Project ongoing
Brian McMaster	Review of excellence in the arts	30,000	Published on DCMS website
University College London	Scoping study into climate change	8,000	Project ongoing

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many external contracts his Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183197]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department held no external contracts with public relations companies between 1998 and 2002, and therefore spent no money on this.

The Department has two external contracts with public relations companies since 2002, one relating to the digital switchover campaign, aimed at increasing public awareness of digital switchover, and the other on a licensing campaign aimed at small businesses to increase awareness of the implications of the Licensing Act.

The costs of those contracts are set out in the following table:

	Campaign	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	Digital Switchover	117,500.05
2005-06	Digital Switchover	258,500.00
2005-06	Licensing Communications	36,648.25
2006-07	Digital Switchover	84,600

Departmental Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* cost was of each research contract his Department has commissioned since 1997. [182800]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 January 2008]*: Our records show the following research projects were commissioned by my Department since 2001. We do not have sufficient information to provide comparable data for earlier years.

Subject	*Cost (£)*
Lottery Grants Pilot Study	15,000
Evaluation of the Impact of the National Lottery	18,000
Economics of Gambling	17,000
Regional Cultural Data Framework	52,000
Live music baseline survey	127,000
Olympic Bid Market Research	36,000
Role and Contribution of Culture to Regeneration in UK	19,000
Tourism Productivity Study	46,000
Scoping Survey of Culture and Sport in the UK	43,000
Gambling Survey	11,000
Critical Review of Research Literature on Machine Gaming by Children	30,000
Olympic Games Impact Study - Stated Preference Analysis	129,000
Olympic Games Impact Study—Computable Equilibrium Project	25,000
Olympic Games Impact Study—Multi-criteria and programme summary	72,000
Digital Switchover—Social Housing Issues Survey	36,000
Review of Academic Literature on Social Capital and DCMS Sectors	4,000

Subject	*Cost (£)*
Arts and Criminal Justice Feasibility Study	20,000
Research on Public Perceptions of the BBC	24,000
Research on Impact of Violent Computer Games	5,000
Mental Health Research	33,000
Taking Part Survey (2005-08)	4,476,000
Digital Switchover Technical Trial Research on Vulnerable Households	38,000
Access to finance for music SMEs	25,000
DCMS Bolton Digital Switchover Trial Research Report	20,000
Gambling Study	54,000
Gambling Study—Short Screen for Problem Gambling	[1]83,000
Drivers of Tourism Demand	29,000
Economic Impact of DCMS Cultural Investment	55,000
Knowledge economy	25,000
Creative Industries Analysis	50,000
Literature Review for humanitarian assistance	16,000
Live Music Economic Impact Study	9,000
BBC Charter Review Research Tender	50,000
Digital Switchover—social housing issues survey	51,000
Live Music—Small venues experience of Licensing	91,000
A literature review and survey on remote gambling	30,000
Library Standard Review Work	100,000
Cultural Pathfinder outcomes	44,000
The Casinos Scoping Study	50,000
7/7 Evaluation Project	15,000
Emergency preparedness	29,000
Literature review on understanding demand for culture among key groups	29,000
Library performance indicators	60,000
Museum Performance Indicators	29,000
Creative Industries Scoping Study—spillover	35,000
Creative Industries Scoping Study—direct links	10,000
Understanding perceptions of secondary markets	25,000
Impact of large-scale sports facilities capital programme	15,000
International aspects of the Creative Industries	85,000
Digital Switchover—communal housing issues survey	47,000
World Heritage site status	29,000
Impact of Licensing Act on Live Music follow up survey	97,000
Olympics Legacy market research	147,000
NDPB Working Together survey	5,000
Climate change impacts on our sectors	5,000
Taking Part Scoping Study	20,000
Voluntary arts sector	45,000

[1] US$.

Some of the research was carried out in collaboration with other organisations, in which case only the DCMS contribution is shown.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to ensure that those groups of people who are eligible for assistance from the digital television switchover help scheme will receive it. [184120]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The Help Scheme will assist the over-75s and those with significant disabilities (including the blind or visually impaired) to convert to digital TV services.

The Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Act 2007 allows the Department of Work and Pensions to share social security information with the BBC and local authorities to disclose information from their registers of blind and partially sighted people. This will enable the help scheme contractor appointed by the BBC to identify people who are eligible for support and ensure that direct communications can be targeted to the right people.

In addition to direct mailings to those identified as eligible, the help scheme contractor and Digital UK will work through advertising campaigns, help lines, and local and community organisations to give further information and advice about the scheme including eligibility.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that preparations for digital switchover take into account the benefits for older and disabled people of access to electronic communications; and if he will make a statement. [184354]

Andy Burnham: The Government take digital inclusion very seriously and have announced a help scheme to assist the over-75s and those with significant disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired to convert to digital television.

Including access to electronic communications could make the help scheme more complex, more expensive and more difficult to communicate effectively. However, we will continue to review this option along with other new and emerging technologies to help ensure that the equipment provided by the scheme best suits the needs and interests of older and disabled people.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 950W, on the digital switchover help scheme, on how many occasions the Emerging Technologies Group has met; how often they meet; and when they will next meet. [184470]

Andy Burnham: There has been one introductory meeting of the Emerging Technologies Group so far (27 September 2007). It meets at least twice per year, with the next meeting scheduled for the 27 February 2008.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Copeland

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* integrated digital televisions and *(b)* personal video recorders have been provided in the Copeland area as part of the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme. [184276]

Andy Burnham: The numbers are as follows:

(a) 68

(b) 63.

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding English Heritage received in each year since 1997, expressed in 2007-08 prices. [181922]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is set out in the following tables:

DCMS grant in aid

£ million

	Actual amount	*Amount in 2007-08 prices*
1997-98	105.2	135.1
1998-99	102.4	128.3
1999-2000	112.6	138.3
2000-01	119.0	144.1
2001-02	110.4	130.6
2002-03	116.4	133.5
2003-04	119.4	133.1
2004-05	127.9	138.7
2005-06	129.1	137.2
2006-07	141.3	145.9

Notes:

1. Figures for 1997-98 to 1999-2000 inclusive are from DCMS' Appropriation Accounts.
2. Figures 2000-01 to 2006-07 are from DCMS Resource Accounts and represent the net total of money paid by DCMS to English Heritage from public funds.
3. 1997-98 and 1998-99 include £10.7 million per annum for the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME). RCHME merged with English Heritage in 1999.
4. 2006-07 includes £7.8 million additional grant-in-aid receivable from DCMS for relocation derived from the one-off surrender of the lease on the previous London headquarters building.
5. Prices have been deflated using HM Treasury's GDP deflator series. For all years up to 2006-07 this is calculated from ONS outturn data for current and constant price GDP.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund[1]

£ million

	Actual amount	*Amount in 2007-08 prices*
2002-03	5.2	6.0
2003-04	3.5	3.9
2004-05	3.9	4.2
2005-06	3.6	3.8
2006-07	3.1	3.2

[1] This is public funding which English Heritage has been distributing, on behalf of DEFRA, since 2002-03.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce his determination of the horserace betting levy for the next financial year. [183864]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* We are taking full account of the arguments that have been put to us by the British Horseracing Authority, the Bookmakers' Committee and the independent members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, and I hope to be able to make an announcement very soon.

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 19W, on planning permission: playing fields, if he will break down the planning applications considered by Sport England by region. [183924]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* In addition to my written answers to the hon. Member for Bath on Planning Permission: Playing Fields of 15 January 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1167-68W and 28 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 20W, the table shows the total number of planning applications on playing fields on which Sport England were consulted for all years since 2001, broken down by region, and for which we have published data. For each year the table includes the number of planning applications that have been approved, rejected or withdrawn and applications yet to be decided. Many of these applications are from clubs/schools wanting to improve the quality of their sports facilities.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
East	88	116	144	197
East Midlands	112	140	137	151
London	39	59	59	40
North East	71	74	96	85
North West	145	193	175	72
South East	162	234	237	227
South West	73	83	181	149
West Midlands	161	213	194	199
Yorkshire	134	185	190	151
Total	985	1,297	1,413	1,271

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 12 October 2007, how much funding Sport England will receive from the comprehensive spending review settlement in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms until 2011. [172824]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows how much Exchequer funding in cash terms Sport England will receive from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport following the comprehensive spending review settlement:

	(a) Cash terms (£ million)
2007-08	115.9
2008-09	133.2
2009-10	130.2
2010-11	128.2

In 2007-08 prices, the above figures in real terms are as follows:

	(b) Real terms (£ million)
2007-08	115.9
2008-09	129.6
2009-10	123.4
2010-11	118.4

Provision for 2010-11 is 2.1 per cent. above that for 2007-08 in real terms. The cash increases against the 2007-08 baseline reflect additional resource funding for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's contribution to the 5 Hour Offer. This amounts to £39.95 million over the CSR 2007 period and will be jointly delivered with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (which is contributing an additional £60 million).

Television

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects the BBC high definition television channel to be fully operational. [183856]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the BBC. The Trust will consider early this year the options for when the nine-hour service can become available on Freeview. This work will link closely to the results of Ofcom's recent consultation, "The Future of Digital Terrestrial Television."

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement with VisitBritain on his Department's progress towards the target of creating a £100 billion tourism industry by 2010. [184026]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* VisitBritain is currently leading a Strategic Review of the £350 million that the public sector puts into tourism support across the UK. The Review includes a full consideration of the best use of VisitBritain's funding allocation in supporting the tourism industry, and increasing its turnover faster than would be the case without marketing and other support at national level.

Tourism: Productivity

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards achieving his Department's target to improve the productivity of the tourism, creative and leisure industries; and what measures he has put in place to ensure the target is met. [183921]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* DCMS seek to improve the productivity of tourism, creative industries and leisure industries with key projects designed to impact on its sponsored industries. Projects include, for example, the implementation of the Licensing Act, Gambling Act and the digital switchover.

Examples of work to support the tourism sector and its productivity include the work we have done with VisitBritain and the Tourism Industry Emergencies Response Group to improve the response to emergencies; the work we have done with local authorities to implement the Good Practice Guide on planning for tourism and the work to firstly prepare and now implement our tourism strategy for 2012 "Winning: A Tourism Strategy for 2012 and Beyond."

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to launch his consultation on the replacement of air passenger duty with a tax payable per plane rather than per passenger as outlined in PBRN 24 on 9 October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [181719]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* At pre-Budget report 2007 the Chancellor announced the intention to replace air passenger duty with a new duty charged per plane rather than per passenger, on 1 November 2009. The aim of this reform is to send better environmental signals and ensure aviation makes a greater contribution to covering its environmental costs, while continuing to ensure that the aviation industry makes a fair contribution towards the cost of public services.

The pre-Budget report also set out the intention to consult on this issue and I announced to the House by written ministerial statement the publication of a formal consultation document on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 22WS. This may be viewed on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Consultations_and_Legislation/consult_index.cfm

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to HM Revenue and Customs has been of the police investigation into the loss of child benefit data. [184086]

Angela Eagle: The investigation by the Metropolitan Police Service has not yet been concluded, and HMRC are not in a position to confirm the costs at this time.

Credit Unions

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to encourage more credit unions to be set up. [184042]

Angela Eagle: The Government support credit unions and other third sector lenders through the Financial Inclusion Growth Fund. More than £40 million has been provided to date with a further £38 million committed for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. This funding will include provision of capital to new lenders. In addition, the UK high street banks have committed to support the development of new third sector lending provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce. The Government are currently reviewing credit union legislation to ensure that the sector has a legislative framework that will facilitate its growth and expansion.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (X) special advisers, (Y) Ministers and (Z) communications officials in (aa) his Department and (bb) its agencies since August 2005. [183935]

Angela Eagle: Entries to Wikipedia can be created and amended by an individual from any computer that has access to the internet. Therefore the information requested is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171538]

Angela Eagle: The following table updates a previous answer given to the hon. Gentleman on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 218W, to give bonuses paid to staff by Department/agency. Further to the previous answer, the table includes data for National Savings and Investments, OGC Buying Solutions and amended figures for the Office of Government Commerce:

Department/ Agency	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Debt Management Office	179,673	166,654	157,259	134,278	97,610
Government Actuary's Department[1]	22,500				
HM Revenue and Customs[2]	18,960,303	11,047,400	13,363,285	1,115,723	
HM Treasury	1,103,000	967,000	972,000	704,000	627,000
National Savings and Investments[3]	362,434	350,292			
Office for National Statistics[2]	735,871	248,219	360,473	381,830	
Office of Government Commerce	322,727	282,264	168,250	153,000	123,200
OGC Buying Solutions	383,457	357,584	325,024	307,581	277,062
Royal Mint	4,802	40,073	22,258	10,752	0
Valuation Office Agency	114,100	0	0	320,218	276,829
Total	22,188,867	13,459,486	15,368,549	3,127,382	1,401,701

[1] Data for the Government Actuary's Department are not available for the period 2002-03 to 2005-06.
[2] Data for HM Revenue and Customs and the Office for National Statistics are not available for 2002-03.
[3] Data for National Savings and Investments are not available for the period 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce fuel duty in remote and peripheral areas which are highly dependent upon private transport. [183739]

Angela Eagle: Fuel duty policy is set as part of Chancellor's annual Budget decision-making process for consistent application across the United Kingdom and there are no plans to change this approach.

The balance of factors includes the equitability of preferential rates' application between regions, the consistency of environmental signalling and the potential administrative burdens. These factors tend to weigh against the case for preferential rates of fuel duty for remote regions of the United Kingdom.

Far Eastern Investment Corporation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Richard Branson's consortium for Northern Rock includes the Far Eastern Investment Corporation. [184855]

Angela Eagle: Details of the members of the Virgin consortium can be found at the Virgin Money and Northern Rock plc. websites.

Financial Services Authority: Northern Rock

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Financial Services Authority officials involved in regulating Northern Rock during the last two years *(a)* have left the organisation, *(b)* have received bonuses and *(c)* are on permanent sick leave. [183895]

Angela Eagle: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from government control and influence. I have asked the chief executive of the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated annual cost to his Department of that use is. [174035]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the National Identity Scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be of assistance. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Northern Rock

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instigate an investigation into the sale of Northern Rock shares in relation to share price changes on the stock market. [172035]

Angela Eagle: The principal body responsible for the investigation of possible insider dealing and other market abuse is the Financial Services Authority, which looks into any suspicious activity associated with significant stock price movements.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts were awarded by his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the date of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department or agency in each case. [165328]

Angela Eagle: Opinion Leader Research is an approved supplier of research and development services under a framework agreement awarded by HM Revenue and Customs and available for use by other Government Departments. The framework was awarded by using fair and open competition in accordance with the EU procurement directives. Ministers were not involved in the selection process for either the places on the framework agreement nor the individual contracts called-off from that agreement.

For the Treasury's contracts with Opinion Leader Research, I refer to the answers given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 196W, and to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1495W.

Since 1997, the Office for National Statistics has commissioned two research projects with Opinion Leader Research. The details of the projects are:

1. Civil partnership registration—value £10,000 excluding VAT. The contract was awarded on 19 May 2005. This work was not tendered as it was within the threshold of the framework whereby competition is not required. The work was completed by 13 July 2005.

2. Utilisation of content on National Statistics website—value £37,000 excluding VAT. The work was put out to tender on 25 May 2006. The contract was awarded on 12 June 2006 and the work was completed by 11 September 2006.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was created on the 18 April 2005 from the former departments of HM Customs & Excise and Inland Revenue.

Spend for contracts awarded to Opinion Leader Research by the former Inland Revenue and since 2005 by HMRC totals £617,616 (excluding VAT). The data requested are in the following table.

None of the other Chancellor's departments or agencies have had any contracts with Opinion Leader Research in the last three years. Information on contracts, if any, with Opinion Leader Research back to 1997 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost due to changes of accounting systems in the intervening years.

Former Inland Revenue and HMRC contracts with Opinion Leader Research

Project title	*Year*	*Cost excluding VAT (£)*	*Date put to tender*	*Date awarded to OLR*	*Work carried out (contract start to final payment)*	*Completed and findings put to the Department*
CSPI employers	2002-03	31,843.00	August 2002	September 2002	September 202 to February 2003	February 2003
Call-off contract (capital allowances tax law rewrite	2003-04	12,382.50	n/a	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Call-off contract (capital taxes)	2003-04	14,595.01	n/a	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
LBO CT customers (qualitative)	2003-04 and 2004-05	27,678.00	November 2003	February 2004	January 2004 to April 2004	[1]—
Tax credit claimants and overpayments	2004-05	19,376.00	November 2004	November 2004	November 2004 to December 2004	January 2005
Call-off contract—evolution	2004-05	50,925.01	n/a	[1]—	February 2005 to March 2005	[1]—
Call-off contract—TLR/CM	2004-05	27,150.00	n/a	January 2005	January 2005 to February 2005	[1]—
Call-off contract—national minimum wage	2004-05	25,462.50	n/a	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Call-off contract (capital taxes)	2004-05	6,255.01	n/a	[1]—	April 2004	[1]—
Solicitors practice in recording stamp duty land tax	2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07	56,450.00	November 2004	February 2005	February 2005 to June 2006	December 2006
New taxpayers (research and evaluation to support PSA1)	2004-05 and 2005-06	92,057.00	August 2004	December 2004	December 2004 to October 2005	[1]—
Agents and IR online services	2004-05 and 2005-06	57,400.00	November 2004	February 2005	February 2005 to October 2005	January 2006
Student loans deduction	2004-05	40,945.00	n/k	April 2004	[1]—	[1]—
Research in support of the review of HMRC links with medium sized business	2005-06	39,275.00	n/k	May 2005	May 2005 to October 2005	December 2005

Former Inland Revenue and HMRC contracts with Opinion Leader Research

Project title	*Year*	*Cost excluding VAT (£)*	*Date put to tender*	*Date awarded to OLR*	*Work carried out (contract start to final payment)*	*Completed and findings put to the Department*
Evaluation of working with the voluntary and community sector to promote take-up of new tax credits among hard to reach groups	2005-06 and 2006-07	60,708.00	August 2005	September 2005	September 2005 to August 2006	May 2006
Investigation of reporting of changes of circumstances and understanding of tax credits	2006-07 and 2007-08	55,213.50	October 2006	November 2006	November 2006 to July 2007	Report awaiting final quality assurance and sign off within the Department
	Total	617,715.53				

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[1] Data not held centrally so could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from prostate cancer there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government Office region and *(b)* age group. [184249]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from prostate cancer there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* Government Office Region and *(b)* age group. (184249)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death by *(a)* government office region, and *(b)* age group from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], by Government Office Region and age group, 1997-2006[2, 3]

GOR	*Age*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Deaths 2006*
North East	<50	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	3	1	1
	50-54	2	3	4	3	4	1	2	2	3	2
	55-59	6	8	12	6	4	5	7	15	6	9
	60-64	22	15	27	21	32	25	17	18	21	20
	65-69	41	44	42	35	26	35	28	41	29	42
	70-74	67	80	63	64	60	62	65	71	55	82
	75-79	84	92	84	81	94	84	95	115	86	98
	80-84	71	63	52	73	85	104	98	90	93	91
	85+	73	81	88	68	76	97	89	102	98	121
	Total	368	386	374	352	383	413	401	457	392	466
North West	<50	4	5	2	4	4	6	3	1	6	2
	50-54	3	8	9	11	11	8	8	10	8	7
	55-59	23	17	27	20	26	17	21	19	24	29
	60-64	52	61	55	64	50	48	54	44	57	48
	65-69	98	107	106	108	117	91	93	82	102	82
	70-74	194	170	185	163	168	155	151	143	161	150
	75-79	217	232	248	257	230	236	206	214	202	223
	80-84	214	213	191	205	253	231	248	263	264	232
	85+	226	234	218	232	268	285	269	286	285	243
	Total	1,031	1,047	1,041	1,064	1,127	1,077	1,053	1.62	1,109	1,016
Yorkshire and The Humber	<50	4	0	0	0	2	3	2	1	4	3
	50-54	6	10	10	6	4	8	5	9	4	4
	55-59	13	11	10	11	11	11	11	12	25	26
	60-64	33	40	34	34	36	25	45	33	42	31
	65-69	77	67	76	69	77	73	79	80	68	61
	70-74	150	145	145	122	111	122	125	119	113	130
	75-79	184	181	209	175	168	181	173	174	157	169

Table 1: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], by Government Office Region and age group, 1997-2006[2, 3]

GOR	*Age*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Deaths 2006*
	80-84	168	147	149	158	152	156	210	216	180	206
	85+	175	154	156	195	195	205	240	202	202	228
	Total	810	755	789	770	756	784	890	856	795	858
East Midlands	<50	3	2	0	1	0	4	1	1	1	3
	50-54	8	4	7	5	4	9	8	8	7	2
	55-59	12	14	11	14	13	16	14	13	22	17
	60-64	33	25	38	31	33	31	33	30	29	33
	65-69	66	69	68	71	50	62	45	65	66	49
	70-74	121	99	114	118	105	111	132	112	101	107
	75-79	149	157	146	161	170	150	149	153	145	154
	80-84	155	141	133	148	144	157	191	176	188	187
	85+	154	183	161	136	168	192	208	204	196	205
	Total	701	694	678	685	687	732	781	762	755	757
West Midlands											
	<50	2	2	1	1	5	1	0	3	1	1
	50-54	2	4	1	6	9	9	8	6	1	4
	55-59	25	14	14	16	19	17	17	18	14	19
	60-64	28	35	41	31	35	49	44	41	35	53
	65-69	82	87	78	86	71	69	91	73	58	95
	70-74	167	147	148	122	161	131	130	124	137	127
	75-79	199	204	216	217	202	185	195	197	191	174
	80-84	189	217	175	160	228	217	221	231	206	207
	85+	157	174	191	196	225	232	242	237	246	280
	Total	851	884	865	835	955	910	948	930	889	960
East of England	<50	0	1	1	1	3	1	5	1	1	2
	50-54	6	9	5	5	8	5	0	3	4	5
	55-59	21	19	14	15	15	24	16	17	20	22
	60-64	30	40	31	46	40	52	34	36	32	32
	65-69	83	68	66	78	84	77	95	73	83	80
	70-74	141	132	138	141	149	152	140	142	150	123
	75-79	198	213	248	195	227	220	209	190	190	216
	80-84	171	203	179	184	207	260	233	256	269	253
	85+	220	209	223	240	264	283	268	299	266	307
	Total	870	894	905	905	997	1,074	1,000	1,017	1,015	1,040
London	<50	2	5	0	3	4	1	3	2	2	3
	50-54	5	5	6	4	5	9	8	8	8	7
	55-59	18	10	17	10	16	17	14	24	22	18
	60-64	45	51	41	39	38	42	44	42	36	31
	65-69	83	79	93	96	82	84	77	79	70	85
	70-74	156	157	138	101	124	130	131	146	141	96
	75-79	186	201	223	174	212	216	185	191	168	151
	80-84	199	180	168	160	200	190	199	209	219	197
	85+	184	203	224	211	249	240	229	238	287	262
	Total	878	891	910	798	930	929	890	939	953	850
South East	<50	6	3	1	5	1	6	3	5	2	2
	50-54	11	8	14	10	8	13	11	11	5	8
	55-59	29	21	22	19	22	32	30	32	32	27
	60-64	56	69	56	56	66	62	60	50	43	51
	65-69	121	121	125	103	112	148	116	101	108	99

Table 1: Number of deaths where prostate cancer was the underlying cause of death[1], by Government Office Region and age group, 1997-2006[2,3]

GOR	Age	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Deaths 2006
	70-74	229	238	185	184	213	185	181	200	198	174
	75-79	304	321	322	291	307	282	307	271	278	290
	80-84	319	313	325	286	324	331	376	368	339	353
	85+	359	382	413	392	397	467	450	393	451	488
	Total	1,434	1,476	1,463	1,346	1,450	1,526	1,534	1,431	1,456	1,492
South West	<50	1	2	3	1	0	2	5	0	2	2
	50-54	2	9	8	6	6	6	4	5	4	7
	55-59	19	15	21	7	17	22	32	24	18	16
	60-64	42	34	42	29	34	39	45	43	41	37
	65-69	81	81	68	68	91	97	92	68	82	82
	70-74	169	158	127	157	107	144	132	146	149	131
	75-79	237	218	232	218	215	217	197	241	226	208
	80-84	232	253	221	231	227	229	273	274	265	259
	85+	256	277	268	289	323	270	293	276	341	325
	Total	1,039	1,047	990	1,006	1,020	1,026	1,073	1,077	1,128	1,067
England total		7,982	8,074	8,015	7,761	8,305	8,471	8,570	8,531	8,492	8,506

[1] Cause of death for prostate cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 185 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C61. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years. [2] Based on boundaries as of 2007. [3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in each year since 1997-98, broken down by strategic health authority area. [184250]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of prostate cancer have been diagnosed in each year since 1997-98, broken down by strategic health authority. [184250]

The most recent available figures for cancer incidence are for 2005. Figures requested are given in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, by strategic health authority, 1997 to 2005

SHA	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	19,878	20,375	22,203	24,256	27,380	27,672	27,777	29,406	28,887
North East	887	1,063	1,229	1,243	1,407	1,389	1,475	1,321	1,403
North West	2,554	2,626	2,843	3,096	3,651	3,525	3,637	4,468	4,293
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,857	1,818	1,923	2,372	2,631	2,598	2,639	2,909	2,729
East Midlands	1,465	1,531	1,747	1,939	2,115	2,136	2,090	2,415	2,619
West Midlands	2,085	2,247	2,411	2,723	3,076	3,235	3,249	3,377	3,350
East of England	2,247	2,266	2,609	2,938	3,192	3,270	3,194	3,164	3,453
London	2,593	2,661	2,742	2,797	3,074	3,115	3,062	3,012	2,876
South East Coast	2,081	1,997	2,225	2,289	2,441	2,302	2,270	2,268	2,317
South Central	1,480	1,632	1,808	2,038	2,349	2,361	2,334	2,484	2,169
South West	2,629	2,534	2,666	2,821	3,444	3,741	3,827	3,988	3,678

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Revenue and Customs: Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been claimed in expenses by HM Revenue and Customs staff at Senior Civil Service level and above in the last five year period for which data are available. [183704]

Angela Eagle: New management reporting systems installed by HM Revenue and Customs in November 2006 provide information from that date. Information prior to November 2006 could only be provided at disproportionate cost. For the period 1 November 2006 to 31 March 2007 expense claims for staff at senior civil service (SCS) levels were £326,909. The number of senior civil servants who made claims during this period was 337.

Revenue and Customs: Recruitment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been of placing advertisements for HM Revenue and Custom's recruitment programme on the Google search engine. [183714]

Angela Eagle: A three-month package was bought via HMRC's recruitment advertising provider at a cost of £9,000.

The package has been particularly effective in attracting interest in HMRC's Graduate Development Programme, resulting in an increase in the normal number of applicants.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which overseas destinations were visited by HM Revenue and Customs staff in the last financial year; how many visits were made to each destination; and what the cost to the public purse was of visits to each destination. [183715]

Angela Eagle: New systems installed by HM Revenue and Customs in November 2006 advise that staff visited the following countries during the period 1 November 2006 to 31 March 2007. A small number of staff that are abroad for long periods may not be reflected in these numbers and could be included only at disproportionate cost. An analysis of the costs between countries visited could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

“I refer to the answer given to your written parliamentary question in September 2007 (HMT Ref: 4555W 06/07). The cost of travel and hotels for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on travel abroad in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was £1,949,181.

	Number of visits
United Arab Emirates	33
Afghanistan	6
Anguilla	1
Austria	8
Australia	10
Belgium	335
Bulgaria	27
Bahrain	1
Brazil	6
Canada	7
Switzerland	5
China	5
Serbia/Montenegro	2
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	2
Germany	43
Denmark	14
Spain	31
Finland	7
France	403
Ghana	20
Gibraltar	1
Hong Kong	1
Croatia	5
Hungary	16
Indonesia	1
Ireland	61
India, Sikkim prov.	4
Italy	14
Jamaica	5
Japan	4
South Korea	1
Kuwait	1
Kazakhstan	1
St. Lucia	1
Sri Lanka	2
Lithuania	6
Luxembourg	29
Latvia	1
Malta	18
Malaysia	4
Mozambique	1
Netherlands	90
Norway	3
New Zealand	2
Peru	3
Pakistan	5
Poland	27
Portugal	24
Romania	32
Sweden	11
Slovenia	3
Slovakia	1
Turks and Caicos islands	1
Turkey	10
USA	10
Uzbekistan	3
Venezuela	2
Vietnam	3
Vanuatu	1
Yemen	1
South Africa	2
Total	1,379

Taxation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of level of compliance with tax regulations in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [183306]

Angela Eagle: There is no current assessment of the level of compliance with all tax regulations.

Two key obligations are:

to file returns on time; and

to submit correct returns and pay the right amount of tax.

Filing

The percentage of self-assessment returns filed on time is published in HMRC's annual reports, which are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

For corporation tax returns, no figures are available prior to 2003-04, and the 2006-07 figure is not yet finalised.

Estimates of losses

HMRC have made estimates of the level of indirect tax losses since 2001. The most recent estimates are available in “Measuring Indirect Tax Losses 2007”, published alongside pre-Budget report 2007. These cover VAT losses for 2001-02 to 2006-07, and excise losses from 2001-02 to 2005-06. HMRC also published “Developing Methodologies for Measuring Direct Tax

Losses" at this time. This includes estimates of direct tax losses for individuals subject to income tax self-assessment (2001-02 to 2002-03), small and medium-sized companies (2001-02 to 2003-04) and small and medium-sized employers (2003-04).

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many errors were made in processing tax returns in each of the last five years. [183829]

Angela Eagle: The following table sets out the number of taxpayers whose self assessment tax returns were subject to processing errors during the past five years. The table also details the percentage accuracy of self assessment tax bills during the same period.

	Taxpayers with errors	*Accuracy of SA tax bills (percentage)*
2003-04	544,669	93.8
2004-05	435,788	95.0
2005-06	289,266	96.5
2006-07	298,592	96.5
2007-08 (to date)	246,332	97.1

Taxation: Gambling

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which gambling products are subject to more than one ad valorem tax rate; and for what reasons in each case. [181698]

Angela Eagle: Gambling products are subject to a range of different taxes. In some circumstances, bingo is subject to more than one ad valorem tax. Bingo in a licensed premises is subject to bingo duty at 15 per cent. on gross profits and most participation fees for such bingo are subject to VAT at the standard rate. All gambling industries are also subject to the usual taxes imposed on business. The average effective tax rate on bingo is not out of line with rates on other forms of gambling.

The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes.

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on the childcare element of the working tax credit in each quarter of the last five years for which data are available; and if he will make a statement; [184928]

(2) what the average level of award made to families of the childcare element of the working tax credit was in each quarter of the last five years for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [184929]

Angela Eagle: HMRC do not produce forecasts for the individual elements of the child and working tax credits.

Table 2.4 of the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics, Finalised Awards' for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and 2005-06, provides information on the estimated expenditure on the child care element, for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. This is shown in the following table.

The same table contains estimates of the average help with child care costs these families received in each relevant year. This information is not available on a quarterly basis.

	Childcare element expenditure (£ million)	*Average help with child care cost per week (£)*
2003-04	613	43.58
2004-05	706	44.29
2005-06	858	48.45

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receiving the childcare element of the working tax credit in each quarter of the last five years for which data are available; and if he will make a statement. [184930]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 916W.

HEALTH

NHS Constitution

11. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to establish a constitution for the NHS. [184153]

Alan Johnson: As I announced on 4 July, in the ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 961, and as outlined in the interim report of the NHS Next Stage Review, published in October 2007, the Government are considering the case for a new national health service constitution to enshrine the principles and values of the NHS and increase local accountability to patients and the public. As part of this we are engaging extensively with patients, staff and the public.

Human Trafficking

12. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of trafficked women and children who were refused secondary healthcare in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [184154]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally. However, we have always made clear that no one in need of immediately necessary treatment should ever be denied that treatment because of concerns about their immigration status.

Fertility Services

13. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve access to fertility services. [184155]

Dawn Primarolo: We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help primary care trusts identify and share best practice in the provision of fertility services, and to establish standardised access criteria. To support this work, and develop tools to help primary care trusts improve their provision, we are establishing an expert group which will include commissioners.

Midwives

14. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives are employed by the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [184156]

Ann Keen: The September 2006 NHS census showed there were 24,500 midwives employed in the national health service, an increase of over 9 per cent. since 1997.

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in the number of midwives recruited by the NHS over the last 10 years. [184163]

Ann Keen: Over the last 10 years there has been steady growth in the number of midwives working in the national health service. The NHS now employs over 2,000 more midwives than in 1997, an increase of over nine per cent.

Patient Satisfaction

15. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has commissioned on patient satisfaction with treatment in NHS hospitals. [184157]

Ann Keen: The Government have one of the world's most comprehensive programmes of patient experience surveys, including the national patient survey programme and Choice survey. This research tells us what people think about the care and treatment they have experienced, and is an essential part of improving services.

Prescription Drugs: Internet Sales

16. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to curtail sales from overseas of prescription drugs via the internet; and if he will make a statement. [184158]

Dawn Primarolo: Prescription medicines purchased from overseas internet websites cannot be guaranteed for their safety, quality and efficacy.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regularly issues warnings about the potential risks involved and, although overseas websites fall outside UK jurisdiction, will take action against illegal sites hosted in the UK.

Frenchay Hospital

17. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact on journey times to accident and emergency departments for South Gloucestershire residents of the proposed changes at Frenchay Hospital. [184159]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions about the services are best taken locally. The Bristol changes have been supported by all of the local health trusts. Three separate assessments of journey times have been undertaken locally in the area, and these have been taken into account by the local health service in making its decision.

Sexually-transmitted Diseases

18. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the incidence of sexually-transmitted diseases among under 18-year-olds. [184160]

Dawn Primarolo: There were 48,389 new diagnoses of the five main sexually-transmitted infections in those aged 19 and under (the age band recorded by the Health Protection Agency) in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) in England in 2006. Reasons for this are complex but include behavioural and biological risk factors.

Tackling the prevalence of sexually-transmitted infections is a top priority. We are making excellent progress towards offering people an appointment at a GUM clinic within 48 hours, established the national chlamydia screening programme, and launched an innovative media campaign aimed at those at highest risk.

Social Care

19. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish the findings of the review of Social Care Funding Group. [184161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection published its annual report on 30 January 2008; a copy has been placed in the Library. The report expressed concerns about the way in which local authorities were reducing care to older and disabled people who they had deemed not eligible for support. In my response to this report, which I set before Parliament in the written ministerial statement of 30 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 15WS, I requested the Commission to undertake a fundamental review of the content and application of eligibility criteria. The Commission have agreed to report back to me by the autumn of this year.

Health Visitors

20. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there are in *(a)* Enfield Southgate and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [184162]

Ann Keen: The September 2006 census showed that there were 50 health visitors working in Enfield PCT and over 12,000 working in England.

The Government are committed to supporting and promoting the role of health visitors.

Health Services: Thames Gateway

22. **Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to make provision for health services in the Thames Gateway area; and if he will make a statement. [184164]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in the Thames Gateway area are responsible for developing strategies for the provision of health services for existing and new populations in the region. PCT revenue allocations include an adjustment to target allocations for designated Department for Communities and Local Government growth areas, including the Thames Gateway.

NHS Dentistry

23. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on access to NHS dental services. [184165]

Ann Keen: The most recent data show 27.9 million people in England saw an NHS dentist during the two years ending 30 June 2007.

We are committed to improving access to NHS services. We have increased central funding by 11 per cent. for 2008-09, and are requiring the NHS, through the operating framework, to increase the number of patients able to access NHS dentistry year on year.

Coeliac Disease

24. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is provided to GPs to assist in the diagnosis of coeliac disease; and if he will make a statement. [184166]

Ann Keen: The Clinical Knowledge Summaries website contains detailed information on the diagnosis and treatment of coeliac disease in a form suitable for both health professionals and patients. A copy is available at:

www.cks.library.nhs.uk/patient_information_leaflet/coeliac_disease

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many blue light accident and emergency departments have become urgent care centres in the last 12 months; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such transitions. [183617]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that urgent and emergency care services are provided that are responsive to people's needs. Changes to services are a matter for local decision. The key principle should always be to ensure that high quality care is provided as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety.

National health service trusts self-report the number of services they provide according to definitions provided by the Department on a quarterly basis. Latest information available shows that, at the end of September 2007, there were 204 type 1 (major) accident and emergency services in England. This compares with 203 type 1 services at the end of September 2006. These figures represent the overall national position at each of those time periods.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will seek to estimate the impact that the entry into force of the Licensing Act 2003 has had on numbers of admissions to hospital accident and emergency departments. [184927]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of patients attending accident and emergency for alcohol-related harm is not collected centrally.

Bexley Care Trust: Cancer

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2222W, on Bexley Care Trust: cancer, what the definitional changes in data were which took place in 2006-07. [178880]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years, the Department implemented new definitional changes to data collection. The Department amended the way activities were grouped and costed, and changed the relationship between diagnosis and programme budget categories. Furthermore, the Department also changed the way non-admitted patient care costs were apportioned across the programme budgeting categories, with more expenditure allocated to the 'Other' category.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, from what date he expects it to be the default position for all new cancer drugs and significant new licensed indications to be referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [183988]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is currently in discussion with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence about the implementation of this aspect of the Cancer Reform Strategy. The new arrangements are expected to start later in 2008.

Care Homes: MRSA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of deaths in care homes were caused by *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile infections in each of the last five years. [183834]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of deaths in care homes were caused by (a) MRSA and (b) Clostridium difficile infections in each of the last 5 years. (183834)

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the care home or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing/care homes and other establishments and may acquire infections in a different place from where they died.

Special analyses of deaths involving MRSA and Clostridium difficile are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. The most recent figures were published in reports in Health Statistics Quarterly 33 in February 2007. This publication is available in the House of Commons library.

The categories used by ONS in presenting place of death are: own home; NHS general hospital; non-NHS general hospital; hospice; NHS nursing home; non-NHS nursing home; private residential home; and local authority residential home.

The tables below provide data on the proportion of all death certificates in NHS nursing homes, non-NHS nursing homes, private residential homes, and local authority residential homes where MRSA or Clostridium difficile were recorded as the underlying cause of death. Data on the proportion of death certificates recording MRSA or C. difficile in these four establishment types combined (all types of 'home') is also provided. Data is for 2001 to 2005, the latest year for which figures are available.

Table 1 presents data for MRSA, Table 2 presents data for Clostridium difficile.

Table 1: Proportion (percentage) of deaths in each establishment type[1] where Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[2] (MRSA) was recorded as the underlying cause of death, 2001-05[3]

	NHS nursing home	*Non-NHS nursing home*	*Private residential home*	*Local authority residential home*	*Combined total (all types of 'home')*
2001	0.04	0.02	0.01	[4]n/a	0.02
2002	0.14	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02
2003	0.24	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.03
2004	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.04
2005	0.20	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04

[1] Death certificates record the place where a person dies, out not where any infection may have been acquired.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 21, 15-22.

[3] Deaths occurring in each calendar year

[4] n/a = no deaths

Table 2: Proportion (percentage) of deaths in each establishment type[1] where Clostridium difficile[2] (C. difficile) was recorded as the underlying cause of death, 2001-05[3]

	NHS nursing home	*Non-NHS nursing home*	*Private residential home*	*Local authority residential home*	*Combined total (all types of 'home')*
2001	0.22	0.03	0.03	[4]n/a	0.03
2002	0.21	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.03
2003	0.24	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04
2004	0.24	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06
2005	0.56	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.11

[1] Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infection may have been acquired.

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report; Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-05. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 71-75.

[3] Deaths occurring in each calendar year

[4] n/a = no deaths

Community Care

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often the records held by his Department on Continuing Care payments are collected; and whether they include information on *(a)* older people, *(b)* adults with learning disabilities and *(c)* younger adults with mental ill health. [183792]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service does not make payments to individuals in respect of continuing health care.

The Department collects information on the number of people receiving continuing health care, and the number of people newly eligible for continuing health care. From 2007-08 this information is being collected on a quarterly basis, prior to 2007-08 the information was collected on an annual basis on 31 March each year. The Department does not collect this information on an age or diagnosis basis.

Community Care: Medical Equipment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the use of telecare systems and in-home monitors to help patients with *(a)* arthritis, *(b)* asthma, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* heart disease and *(e)* other long-term conditions. [183564]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Department telecare policy is set out in Building Telecare in England which was published in July 2005. The Department of Health provided £80 million of funding, through the preventative technology grant, to support the mainstreaming of telecare services and to benefit up to 160,000 additional users. This policy will support people with a range of conditions including those people with arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and other long-term conditions.

In addition, the Long Term Conditions Whole System Demonstrators (WSDs), promised in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", are exploring the effectiveness of telehealth and telecare in supporting integrated care for those with heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes. The results of the evaluation of the WSD programme will help to inform the future application of assistive technologies to support those with other long-term conditions.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist NHS organisations to encourage patients with long-term conditions to monitor their own *(a)* heart activity, *(b)* blood pressure and *(c)* lung capacity at home; what equipment is required to allow patients to do so; and if he will make a statement. [183565]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Long Term Condition Whole System Demonstrators (WSDs), promised in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", will explore the effectiveness of telehealth and telecare in supporting integrated care for those with heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes. There are three demonstrators in the programme located in Kent, Newham and Cornwall. The demonstrators will be robustly evaluated by a consortium of academic organisations in order to fully assess the business case for such service models.

As part of the WSDs the vital signs of several thousand individuals will be measured over a period of at least a year. The vital signs that are measured will be determined on an individual basis following assessment and the development of a care plan. The monitoring of heart activity, blood pressure and lung capacity will be included in the options available to people within the WSD communities.

The equipment needed to measure vital signs can be standalone—e.g. a blood pressure monitor. However, within the WSDs we are testing the role of assistive technologies as part of an integrated health and social care system. The vital sign measurements will therefore be remotely monitored regularly by health professionals. Feedback and treatment regimes will be tailored based on these readings. To facilitate this the peripherals such as blood pressure monitors will be connected to a telehealth hub that is linked via a phone line or broadband to systems that are securely monitored by clinicians.

In addition, the Department's telecare policy is set out in "Building Telecare in England", which was published in July 2005. The Department provided £80 million of funding, through the Preventative Technology Grant, to support the mainstreaming of telecare services and to benefit up to 160,000 additional users. This policy will support people with a range of long term conditions with a number of localities investing in telehealth equipment to enable the monitoring of vital signs in the home.

Further information will be made available as appropriate.

Departmental Board

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W, on the Departmental Board, whether the Customer Insight Unit referred to in paragraph 5.3 of the minutes of the meeting held in March 2007 has now been created; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the paper entitled Embedding the Customer. [177980]

Mr. Bradshaw: An appointment to the post of Head of Customer Insight Unit was made in July 2007 and a small supporting team is in place. The Head of Customer Insight is also the Department's representative on the cross-government Customer Insight Forum.

The paper entitled "Embedding the Customer" formed part of the internal process of departmental policy formulation and is not appropriate for publication. The role of Customer Insight is covered in the "Service Transformation Agreement" published in October 2007 and is available in the Library.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182519]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not have a communication officer grade or job-title. The 'White Book' of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains lists of press officers in the Department and is updated twice yearly. Some officers in directorates other than Communications have some media, press or communications liaison responsibility but this is not recorded in a consistent or economically retrievable form. Figures given as follows are for Communications Directorate alone. Figures for 2003-04 and before are estimates. Figures are given for complete financial years (1 April to 31 March). Some staff work part-time.

Number of press officers, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Year	*Number of staff*
2006-07	26
2005-06	30
2004-05	30
2003-04	26
2002-03	24
2001-02	22
2000-01	22
1999-2000	21
1998-99	15
1997-98	15

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on the departmental internet, how many of those creations and amendments were made by *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* communications officials; and how many of those creations and amendments were made from the IP addresses of (i) special advisers, (ii) Ministers and (iii) communications officials. [183904]

Mr. Bradshaw: Creations and amendments to Wikipedia made from departmental computers are identified by a single IP address as all traffic passes out through a 'proxy' server and the IP address is that of the server not the individual computer.

All staff internet traffic is recorded and identifies which sites are visited by staff but does not identify what activity has taken place. Therefore, it is possible to identify from records which staff have visited the Wikipedia site but not to identify what entries have been accessed or whether they have been created or amended.

From August 2007, Wikipedia has blocked the Department's IP address for creating or amending entries. Information on the Wikipedia site indicates that this has occurred because it has identified the IP address as being shared by many users. Since the IP address has been blocked, staff wishing to create or edit entries from departmental computers must create a user account with Wikipedia. Wikipedia will not release details of user accounts.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations his Department has undertaken since 1997; what the final cost was of all completed consultations; and what the projected final cost is of all ongoing consultations. [181835]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information centrally about the costs of public consultations. Information on the Department's expenditure on public consultations could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A list of the public consultations launched by the Department since 2002 has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Publicity

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* advertising campaigns and *(b)* opinion polling services in each of the last five years. [182849]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table outlines the cost of departmental advertising in the last five fiscal years for which completed records are available, i.e. 2002-03 through to 2006-07.

Departmental campaigns expenditure summary 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

Campaign	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Alcohol[1]	0.10	0.05	0.34	0.06	1.90
Antibiotics	0.44	0.42	0	0.39	0
CALM	0.58	0.43	0.44	0.32	0
Children's health/ pregnancy	0	0.05	0.40	0	0
Drugs[2]	1.52	1.50	1.99	1.26	3.13
Flu	2.00	1.60	1.50	1.85	1.16
Hepatitis C		0.15	0.70	1.28	0.53
Immunisation	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.35	2.80
Mind Out/Mental Health	0.16	0.95	0	0	0
Maternal and Infant Nutrition/ Breastfeeding	0.28	0.46	0.75	0.74	0.73
National health service including nurse recruitment	4.23	4.90	5.84	0.02	0
NHS Direct	0.58	0.75	0	0	0.32
Organ donation	0.22	0	0	0	0
Prescription fraud	0.30	0	0	0	0
Promoting new NHS services (Caring in many ways)	0	0	0.85	0	0
Sexwise/ teenage pregnancy	1.60	2.00	0.77	0.77	3.32
Sexual Health	1.50	1.50	1.26	0.62	4.00
Social care/worker recruitment	1.24	4.62	2.14	2.44	2.69
Smoking	7.87	17.34	24.00	22.70	21.53
Tuberculosis awareness	0.09	0.01	0.20	0	0
Walk-in centres	0.14	0.04	0.40	0	0
Winter (Get the right treatment/ask about medicines day)	0.50	1.87	0.99	0.98	0
5 a Day	0.50	0.48	1.03	0.90	0.92
E111	0	0	0.32	1.37	0
Total	24.85	41.12	45.92	36.05	43.03

[1] From 2006-07 Department of Health (DH) contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office (HO)

[2] DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO

A list of expenditure on opinion polling in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not hold this information centrally.

However, information on opinion polling commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate since April 2004 is shown as follows:

Poll	*Total amount spent (£)*
2007	
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—March 2007	171,825
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—July 2007	
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—December 2007	
NHS staff survey and public surveys September 2007	
2006	
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2006	229,440
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—winter 2006	
Public Monthly Omnibus January 2006	
Public Perceptions Baseline	
NHS Staff Survey—January 2006	
NHS Staff Survey—July 2006	
NHS Staff Survey-December 2006	
DH Stakeholder Survey—July 2006	
2005	
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2005	106,205
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker—winter 2005	
Public Monthly Omnibus 2005	
NHS Staff Survey—July 2005	
2004	
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2004	78,000
Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker—winter 2004	
Public Monthly Omnibus 2004	
2003	
No records	

Note:

This should be regarded as an indicative guide on spend only.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179457]

Mr. Bradshaw: The weight of paper (excluding newspapers and cardboard) recycled by the Department in the last five years as published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is:

	Tonnes
2002-03	317.49
2003-04	510.58
2004-05	522.04
2005-06	303.84

Figures for 2006-07 have been submitted to the SDC for publication.

Departmental Reports

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on commissioning reports from non-departmental sources *(a)* based in the UK and *(b)* based overseas in each year since 1997; and what the (i) title, (ii) terms of reference and (iii) purpose was of the reports. [182079]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [181318]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have, between 1999 and 2006, reduced the carbon emissions from the departmental estate by 15 per cent. The figure for 2006-07 will be published shortly in the 2007 "Sustainable Development in Government" report.

Note:

This figure reflects that published in the 2006 "Sustainable Development in Government" report. The departmental estate includes the Department's London administrative estate, and buildings occupied by NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. Where the Department is a minor occupier in buildings also occupied by other Government Departments, this is not counted as part of the departmental estate.

Dr Foster Intelligence

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has awarded to the joint venture Dr. Foster Intelligence; and what their value is. [184145]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on projects awarded to private consultancy firms by the Department in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in July 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Emergency Calls

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of calls to the 999 emergency services number were requests for an ambulance in the most recent year for which figures are available *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by trust; and if he will make a statement. [182632]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect the total number of all 999 calls across emergency services. However, in 2006-07 there were 6.33 million emergency calls reported by ambulance trusts across England.

Information broken down by trust is available in the latest statistical bulletin. "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007 and is available in the Library and on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/ambulanceserv06/Final%20Ambulance%20Services%202006-07.pdf

Feet

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and assistance his Department makes available to people aged *(a)* 65 to 74 and *(b)* over 75 years on the care of their feet. [183891]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Clinical Knowledge Summaries website contains general information on the care of feet, as well as specific information on a variety of foot conditions and how best to care for your feet.

Those patients with specific problems can be referred to specialist chiropody or podiatrist services by their general practitioner.

A copy of the general information has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.cks.library.nhs.uk/patient_information/common_health_questions/question/how_can_i_take_care_of_my_feet

Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* NHS Direct, *(b)* pharmaceutical companies and *(c)* other interested parties on the possibility of providing a (i) telephone review and (ii) follow-up service for patients participating in clinical trials through NHS Direct; what assessment he has made of the viability of NHS Direct supporting clinical trials; and if he will make a statement. [183562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not held any such discussions or made any assessment of the viability of NHS Direct supporting clinical trials.

More information may be available from the chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

Health Services: Complaints

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 286WA, on the Healthcare Commission, (1) what arrangements the Healthcare Commission has for categorising complaints; [169869]

(2) how many second stage complaints were upheld in each year. [169870]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that it categorises the complaints it receives by subject type and specialty, for example 'delay in diagnosis-General Practice'. Categories are then related to "Standards for Better Health" (published in 2004), the centrally set standards against which NHS performance is assessed. This system allows the information gathered from complaints to be used, on an anonymised basis, to contribute to the Commission's wider regulatory work.

The Commission took on responsibility for the independent review of complaints in July 2004. Information on the number of complaints upheld is set out in the following table.

	Number of complaints upheld
2004-05 (from August 2004)	11
2005-06	395
2006-07	1,462
2007-08 (year to 29 January)	2,162

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS charged non-EU patients who were not permitted free health care in each year since the inception of charging; and what sums are outstanding. [183885]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what stage in a patient's treatment in an NHS hospital identification is requested; and in the case of non-EU residents, at what point *(a)* it is established that they are required to pay for their treatment and *(b)* they are informed of the total amount payable. [183894]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, place a legal obligation on providers of NHS hospital services to establish whether patients are ordinarily resident in the UK and, if not, whether they are exempt from charges under the provisions of the regulations or liable to pay for any treatment provided. The Department of Health has provided comprehensive guidance on implementation of the charging regulations to help NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts to discharge their obligations under these regulations.

All patients attending hospital for the first time in a course of treatment should be asked specific residency questions. Depending on the answers, the patient may be referred to the hospital's overseas visitors manager for further inquiries to be made. This should be done as soon as is reasonably practicable, taking into account the patient's medical condition. Where it is established that the patient is a chargeable overseas visitor, they should be informed as soon as possible of the estimated cost of the treatment being sought. In the case of routine elective treatment, guidance recommends that a deposit equivalent to that estimated cost should be obtained before treatment begins. However, immediate necessary treatment required to preserve life or to prevent a condition from becoming life-threatening should be provided without delay, with issues around charging and payment dealt with once the patient has been stabilised.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has given to NHS mental health trusts on the use of mixed-sex wards; [178666]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on privacy and dignity of patients in NHS mental health accommodation. [178668]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The guidance issued on 1 June 2000, "Safety, privacy and dignity in mental health units: guidance on mixed sex accommodation for mental health services", outlines the practical steps that staff should take to ensure the safety, privacy and dignity of those who are mentally ill. Additionally, it contains specific guidance on the design of mental health units, which can be a significant factor in maintaining privacy for vulnerable people.

The 2007-08 NHS Operating Framework for England, published in 2006, states that primary care trusts (PCTs) should ensure local implementation of the commitment to reduce mixed-sex accommodation and maximise privacy and dignity in situations where the need to treat and admit takes precedence over complete segregation. The 2008-09 Operating Framework, published on 13 December 2007, calls on PCTs to work with all trusts to agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement.

Also, in December 2007 the Institute for Innovation and Improvement published "Privacy and Dignity: the elimination of mixed sex accommodation" which states:

> 'In mental health services additional issues should be considered with respect to gender separation. The nature of mental health care is such that ward environments need to be safe and homely. Service users may stay for many months or years in some units. In order to promote privacy, dignity and safety appropriate polices, procedures training and clinical supervision'.

On 15 August 2007, we announced that the 'Dignity in Care' campaign would be extended to cover mental health services. The campaign has proved successful in raising awareness of dignity in care and driving forward improvements in the way in which people are treated.

In order to promote privacy and dignity, staff vigilance underpinned by appropriate policies, procedures and training are as important as the physical environment. This is reflected in the core standards measured by the Healthcare Commission as part of the annual health check with which all trusts need to comply. This checklist will assist trusts to demonstrate their compliance with a number of standards, in particular that healthcare organisations have systems in place to ensure that staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect.

Hospitals Beds: Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of the occupancy of an NHS hospital bed per night *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each NHS hospital for each of the last three years. [182293]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of keeping a patient in hospital overnight is not collected centrally.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for introducing the national vaccination programme for young girls against the human papilloma virus; when he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme; and by what means. [183973]

Dawn Primarolo: Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine will be introduced for girls aged 12 to 13 years of age, starting from September 2008. A two-year catch-up campaign will commence in autumn 2009 for girls up to 18 years of age.

Vaccine uptake will be monitored during the programme, and plans to measure the incidence of HPV infection in the vaccinated age groups are currently being considered. In the first few years of the programme, studies will be carried out to test a sample of women for HPV deoxyribonucleic acid and antibodies, and to monitor the reduction in HPV infections. The impact of the programme will be seen when the vaccinated girls reach the age at which cervical screening starts as this is when a reduction in abnormal screening results will begin to be seen.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what clinical advice was sought by his Commercial Directorate in drawing up their proposals for urology and stoma products and services; [183116]

(2) what discussions his Commercial Directorate has had on their proposals for urology and stoma products and services with officials in the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; [183117]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who use urology or stoma products; [183118]

(4) if he will seek a regulatory impact assessment before he makes final decisions concerning his Department's Commercial Directorate proposals in respect of urology and stoma services. [183119]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposals relating to service have been informed by feedback from providers, specialist healthcare professionals and patients. Specialist healthcare professionals have advised the Department of the proposed classification relating to items.

As part of the review, the Department has held meetings with the Department for Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform).

The Department estimates that about 450,000 people use stoma or incontinence items. Some will use them intermittently but the majority will be dependent on them.

Two partial regulatory impact assessments have already been published as part of this review; the first in October 2005 and the second in November 2006. An impact assessment will be published before any decisions are made and interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on this.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 597W, on influenza, which critical national infrastructure industries participated in the Winter Willow exercise in 2007; [184217]

(2) whether the armed forces were involved in his Department's Winter Willow pandemic influenza contingency planning exercise of January and February 2007; and if he will make a statement. [184549]

Dawn Primarolo: The armed forces were not directly involved in exercise Winter Willow. However, the Ministry of Defence were involved in planning the exercise and observing Cabinet Office briefing room discussions.

In addition to the health sector, other sectors within the critical national infrastructure industries that participated in the Winter Willow exercise included the:

Food sector—a range of manufacturers, retailers, primary producers, and wholesalers;

Water sector—several water companies;

Fuel sector—representatives for fuel refiners and retailers; and

Transport sector—a range of transport operators covering buses, trains, air travel and shipping.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on influenza, what proportion of businesses which participated in the National Capabilities Survey in 2006 had an influenza pandemic-specific business continuity plan. [184218]

Dawn Primarolo: Businesses did not participate in the National Capabilities Survey. Therefore, we do not have this information.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 595W, on influenza, what non-scientific considerations are taken into account when deciding on the stockpile levels of treatments to be purchased; [184219]

(2) when he plans to produce guidance on the eligibility of staff for vaccination against A/H5N1 based on a clinical assessment of the staff groups which may be at risk, as stated in paragraph 3.28, page 28, of his Department's document "Pandemic influenza: human resources guidance for the NHS," published on 21 November 2007; [184511]

(3) who will receive antiviral treatment in the event of an influenza pandemic should its clinical attack rate be greater than the quantity of antivirals stockpiled; and in what order of priority. [184551]

Dawn Primarolo: The size, quantity and content of the stockpile is guided primarily by the policy objective of using antiviral medicines effectively in order to prevent hospitalization and deaths arising from pandemic influenza, and supporting our 'stay at home policy'. To achieve this we are planning to increase our antiviral stockpile from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. This should be enough to ensure treatment for all those that become symptomatic, including in a 'worst case' scenario where the maximum predicted attack rate is reached.

Safety and patient acceptability is key. All Neuraminidase inhibitors are generally well tolerated by patients but the side effects from amantadine make it less suitable for stockpiling. The form in which the medicine comes is also important; while Oseltamivir is a capsule, Zanamivir has to be administered using an inhalator. The possible development of antiviral resistance also needs to be taken into account. Resistance is known to develop quickly to amantadine, making it unsuitable for stockpiling. We are currently considering stockpiling a second Neuraminidase inhibitor.

In principle, antiviral medicine treatment will be available for all symptomatic patients from the onset of a pandemic. A move to prioritisation of treatment would only be made if information became available to suggest that demand for antiviral treatment would outstrip supply.

If the clinical attack rate exceeds the quantity of antivirals stockpiled, access to countermeasures will be based on the need to:

Reduce serious illness and deaths; and

Reduce transmission and spread.

Final decisions can only be made once we know what the clinical impact of the pandemic is.

As for the use of our existing stock of pre-pandemic vaccine, the Government have a stockpile of 3.3 million doses of H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine for health care workers. However, the Human Resources guidance for the national health service is still being consulted on. Final guidance detailing the eligibility of staff for A/H5N1 based upon clinical assessment of staff who may be at risk will not be available until after the responses received during the consultation are collated and analysed.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has had discussions with internet service providers on contingency planning arrangements for a potential influenza pandemic. [184510]

Dawn Primarolo: Internet service providers, like other businesses, are responsible for their own contingency planning. To assist with this, Cabinet Office has issued various pieces of advice to assist with business continuity planning, including: 'Guidance on Contingency Planning for a Possible Influenza Pandemic; Pandemic Influenza Checklists for Businesses and Introductory Advice to Staff on Planning for Pandemic Influenza'.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS staff who will not attend work due to fear of infection in an influenza pandemic, as referred to in paragraph 3.9 of his Department's document "Pandemic influenza: human resources guidance for the NHS", published on 21 November 2007. [184512]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department recognises that although some staff may be concerned, national health service staff have a very high level of commitment to caring for patients.

The Department therefore expects the number to be low and continues to work to ensure appropriate countermeasures and information are in place to protect staff during an influenza pandemic.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the proportion of patients in each risk group who have received seasonal influenza immunisation for the 2007-08 winter. [184553]

Dawn Primarolo: The collection of seasonal influenza uptake data for this winter ended on 31 January, and final uptake data for the 2007-08 seasonal influenza campaign are not expected to be available until around the end of February 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which independent sector providers of health care form part of local NHS organisations' pandemic influenza contingency plans. [184556]

Dawn Primarolo: National health service trusts have been asked to ensure that all local health and social care organisations, including the independent sector, are involved in planning for a pandemic, and that they develop an integrated response that uses their combined resources to best effect. NHS trusts will be demonstrating their involvement with local stakeholders, including the independent sector, through the audit on NHS preparedness that is currently taking place.

Injuries: Dogs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in England as a result of dog attacks in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital trust. [182852]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The following tables show the count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the external cause code is W54 (bitten or struck by dog) for the strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment, for adults and children admitted to hospital through accident and emergency, over the last five years. A direct comparison is not possible before and after 2006 when the SHAs were restructured, which is why there are two separate tables.

	2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
SHA of treatment	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	31	99	39	78	46	92	23	66
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	31	65	30	59	44	67	36	54
Essex SHA	30	75	37	61	26	59	28	54
North West London SHA	11	52	19	29	*	37	19	29
North Central London SHA	13	35	7	21	8	17	11	23
North East London SHA	26	25	24	30	13	33	12	9
South East London SHA	22	34	19	40	9	36	*	43
South West London SHA	22	41	18	31	21	31	16	44
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	61	107	43	81	45	98	41	60
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	70	99	62	97	66	97	65	85
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	29	58	42	59	40	49	30	60
West Yorkshire SHA	95	180	78	130	76	91	88	95
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	51	65	42	64	39	60	51	42
Greater Manchester SHA	68	142	52	87	49	82	64	75
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	132	195	123	155	107	122	101	121
Thames Valley SHA	38	104	43	101	41	97	44	79
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	29	48	25	34	23	31	37	29
Kent and Medway SHA	10	56	15	38	20	39	60	85
Surrey and Sussex SHA	73	113	73	100	61	88	41	48
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	54	123	57	101	46	100	44	66
South West Peninsula SHA	22	75	34	59	30	59	22	60
Dorset and Somerset SHA	14	29	14	28	18	20	20	23
South Yorkshire SHA	42	62	36	73	33	69	39	76
Trent SHA	47	108	75	83	62	61	80	81
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	35	40	27	34	32	36	13	*
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	42	56	35	64	27	61	19	52
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	65	140	57	112	45	79	42	83
West Midlands South SHA	24	55	24	45	25	35	20	44

	2006-07	
SHA of treatment	*Under 18*	*18 and over*
North East SHA	130	209
North West SHA	241	426
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	168	353
East Midlands SHA	95	169
West Midlands SHA	146	261
East Of England SHA	106	229
London SHA	127	242
South East Coast SHA	94	190
South Central SHA	75	165
South West SHA	95	266

Notes:

1. FAE

An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Data quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

3. Ungrossed data:

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

4. Low numbers:

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*"(an asterisk).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Lung Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* evaluating research on the feasibility of a UK trial of CT screening for lung cancer. [183979]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Technology Assessment programme, part of the Department's National Institute for Health Research, has placed an advertisement inviting proposals for a feasibility study and trial protocol development for a United Kingdom-based screening programme for lung cancer utilising low dose computerised tomography. The closing date is 12 March 2008. The proposals received will considered by a specially convened board sometime between mid-May and mid-June.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the provisions of the Mental Health Act 2007 on independent mental health advocacy will be implemented; [183228]

(2) what interim safeguards he plans to put in place for people detained in hospital or placed under supervised community treatment if the provisions in the Mental Health Act 2007 regarding independent mental health advocacy are implemented after the implementation of other provisions in the Act; [183229]

(3) how much funding has been allocated in each of the next three years to the implementation and delivery of independent mental health advocacy under the Mental Health Act 2007; [183230]

(4) what work is *(a)* under way and *(b)* planned to create good practice guidance for the delivery of independent mental health advocacy to people on supervised community treatment under the Mental Health Act 2007; [183231]

(5) what measures are *(a)* being developed and *(b)* in place for the commissioning of independent mental health advocacy. [183232]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We aim to implement the provisions of the Mental Health Act in respect of independent mental health advocacy from April 2009. The range of safeguards under the 1983 and 2007 Mental Health Acts will be in place to provide a modernised legislative framework within which compulsory measures can be taken, when necessary, to ensure that people with mental disorders receive the treatment they require. Advocacy support is already available in a number of areas and statutory provision will strengthen this situation.

We are committed to funding independent mental health advocacy but as priorities for additional funding from 2009-10 have not yet been finalised we cannot yet confirm the exact amounts.

Good practice guidance for the delivery of independent mental health advocacy, including those on supervised community treatment, and guidance for commissioners are being developed and will be published later in 2008.

Mercury: Health Hazards

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the link between *(a)* the mercury content of amalgams and *(b)* the thiomersal content of some inoculations and progressive neurodegenerative diseases. [184627]

Dawn Primarolo: Mercury amalgam has been in use for over 150 years to restore teeth in millions of patients and, apart from rare instances of hypersensitivity, no adverse reactions have been identified.

Recent reports from the European Union's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_cons_07_en.htm

and

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/scher_cons_02_en.htm

They support the United Kingdom Government's view that there is currently no need for regulation on mercury amalgam. The Government monitor compliance with provisions in the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 for the safe disposal of amalgam waste and research conducted on alternative restorative materials.

The vaccines used in the UK routine childhood immunisation programme do not contain thiomersal.

The Department has funded studies into the thiomersal content in vaccines and has found no link between vaccines and neurodevelopmental disorders. One such study was "Thiomersal exposure in infants and developmental disorders: A prospective Cohort Study in the United Kingdom does not support a causal association", Jon Heron, Jean Golding and the ALSPAC Study Team "Paediatrics 2004; 114; 577-583".

As with all medicinal products, vaccine safety is continually monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) with advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM). The CHM and its Expert Advisory Groups have thoroughly reviewed the safety of thiomersal-containing vaccines. The advice of CHM/MHRA remains that there is no evidence of harm from the very small quantities of thiomersal contained in some vaccines, with the exception of possible allergic reactions (typically skin rashes or local swelling at the site of injection). This view concurs with that of the World Health Organization, the United States Institute of Medicine and the European Medicines Agency.

NHS: Buildings

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the NHS estate repair backlog. [182913]

Mr. Bradshaw: Overall capital expenditure by the national health service has increased from around £1.1 billion in 1997-98 to around £5.5 billion in 2007-08. These record levels of investment mean that a quarter of the estate occupied by NHS trusts has been replaced since 1997 and the proportion of the estate that predates the establishment of the NHS itself has fallen from 50 per cent. in 1997-98 to 20 per cent. today.

NHS investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The latest figures, provided by trusts themselves, indicate that the total backlog maintenance for the NHS was £3.7 billion in 2006-07. While levels of backlog maintenance vary across the NHS, it is estimated that around 75 per cent. of the total is concentrated in 20 per cent. of organisations.

The majority of backlog relates to low priority work which trusts will undertake through maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts transferred NHS funds to local authorities in the last 12 months; and what the value of those transfers was; [180656]

(2) what restrictions there are on how NHS funds transferred to local authorities can be spent. [180666]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) transferring grants, and the value of those transfers to local authorities for the year ended 31 March 2007. No other information about the transfer of funds to local authorities (LAs) is collected centrally.

Type of grant	*Value (£ million)*	*Number of PCTs transferring funds in 2006-07*
Revenue grants to fund capital projects[1]	71.3	79
Revenue grants to fund revenue projects[2]	206.2	33

Sources:

[1] Department of Health audited PCT accounts 2006-07.

[2] Department of Health forecast outturn month 12 national health service financial returns.

PCTs may make payments to LAs as a contribution towards expenditure by the LA on certain community services, including social services and certain health-related services specified in legislation. These payments are made under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006, which re-enacted earlier legislation.

Payments may also be made to LAs under partnership arrangements. Under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 the Secretary of State may prescribe arrangements as to the making of payments by an NHS body to a LA in connection with arrangements for exercise of the NHS functions. The arrangements that may be made are specified in the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on departmental public expenditure, what level of funding he estimates will be needed by strategic health authorities (SHAs) in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each subsequent financial year until the 2012 Olympics; what this funding will be spent on; and to which SHAs it will be allocated. [182590]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have agreed an allocation of at least £316,000 to NHS London for the period 2008-09. Further funding to support the delivery of health services during the Olympic Games and a lasting health legacy is under discussion. In particular the current review of sport and physical activity being led by HM Treasury will contribute to our planning for an ambitious and effective health programme leading up to 2012 and beyond. More substantial plans will be announced in August to coincide with the official start of the London Olympiad.

NHS: Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of NHS hospitals are equipped with sprinkler systems; [180484]

(2) what guidance his Department has produced on the use of sprinkler systems in *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* other NHS buildings. [180485]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of national health service hospitals equipped with sprinkler systems is not collected centrally.

The Department publishes guidance on fire safety for the NHS in England in the "Firecode" suite of documents. This requires that all NHS organisations in England comply with legislation relating to fire safety. The guidance it contains about the installation of sprinklers in health care buildings is consistent with the policy of the Chief Fire Officers' Association.

While the "Firecode" guidance does not specifically require the installation of sprinkler systems in patient care areas of health care buildings, it does make it clear that the design team is expected to consider the advantages that might be gained by installing sprinklers throughout the building. "Firecode" does however recommend that auto-suppression systems (which can include sprinkler systems) should be installed in clearly defined high fire risk or high fire load areas that are located adjacent to patient accommodation.

Patients: Transport

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require the Healthcare Commission to include the monitoring of private patient transport services provided for NHS patients in the annual health check. [182898]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission's annual health check is an independent assessment of performance of national health service organisations for their quality of services and use of resources. The quality element assesses an organisation on progress against the core standards, existing national targets and new national targets set out by the Department. The Healthcare Commission are currently consulting to determine their proposals for the 2008-09 assessment process.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Midwives

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully qualified midwives were employed by Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust in each quarterly period since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [184444]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the count of midwifery staff at the Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust at 30 September for 2001 to 2006, which are the latest figures available.

Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust

	Count
2001	120
2002	128
2003	137
2004	129
2005	136
2006	139

Notes:

1. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time..

2. On 25 January 2008 Alan Johnson announced £330 million in extra funding for maternity services over the next three years, which will ensure growth in the maternity work force where it is needed as well as the best possible care and a full range of choices for mothers.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Prescriptions: Students

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to reduce the financial burden of prescription costs on students; [184304]

(2) how many times Ministers met representatives of the National Union of Students to discuss NHS prescription charges in 2007. [184305]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's review of prescription charges will be inviting views shortly on options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

Ministers met representatives of the National Union of Students on 23 May 2007.

Preventive Technology Grants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's Preventative Technology Grant *(a)* was spent on telecare in 2006-07 and *(b)* he estimates will be spent on telecare in 2007-08; whether he plans to extend the Preventative Technology Grant into the 2008-09 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [183558]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The funding provided by the Preventative Technology Grant was not ring-fenced. However, analysis by the Commission for Social Care Inspection of the overall spend on telecare by the 150 social care authorities indicates that in 2006-07 £48 million was spent on telecare; and that £84 million is projected to be spent in 2007-08. These figures cover all funding sources not only the Preventative Technology Grant.

The Preventative Technology Grant covers the years 2006-08. Local authorities are permitted to carry-over any unspent funding into 2008-09 subject to any local requirements.

Primary Care Trusts: Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chief executives of primary care trusts (PCT) received recruitment and retention premia of 30 per cent. of salary in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2005-06; what definition he uses of additional duties of a PCT chief executive; how many PCT chief executives received additional duties payment in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2005-06; and whether chief executives of PCTs were paid bonuses other than recruitment and retention payments or additional duties payments in (A) 2007-08 and (B) 2005-06. [184934]

Ann Keen: Information on the pay of chief executives in primary care trusts (PCTs) would normally be collected after the conclusion of the reporting year. We, therefore, do not yet have information for 2007-08.

In 2005-06 chief executives in PCTs were on local contracts prior to the introduction of national pay arrangements in July 2006, and therefore we do not have information on their pay centrally.

Additional duties for PCT chief executives are defined as

> "significant responsibilities outside their core role".

Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 426-7W, on the Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza, for what reasons the Scientific Advisory Group did not meet in 2007; and on which dates its sub-groups met during that year. [184439]

Dawn Primarolo: The Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza (SAG) undertook its business by correspondence in 2007. In August last year, the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) took the decision to reconstitute the SAG as an independent cross-government advisory committee. An induction meeting for the new SAG is planned on 4 March 2008 and the first meeting on 4 April 2008.

The Scientific Advisory Sub-group on Modelling met four times during 2007 on the following dates:

15 January 2007;

29 March 2007;

6 June 2007; and

19 October 2007

Skin Cancer

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what issues the SunSmart campaign will be spending resources in the summer of 2008. [183409]

Dawn Primarolo: The SunSmart programme for 2008 is currently under discussion with key stakeholders including the UK Skin Cancer Working Party, on which the Department is represented. The programme will be confirmed in due course.

Smoking

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received asking for the Easyway to Stop Smoking programme to be assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [183152]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received a number of representations on Allen Carr's Easyway, including requests for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to undertake an appraisal of its clinical and cost effectiveness.

It is not within the remit of NICE to initiate or carry out clinical trials. NICE gives advice to the national health service on best clinical practice, including the clinical and cost effectiveness of drugs and the treatments based on published research. It would be for the Allen Carr Easyway organisation to make arrangements for clinical trials of their products to be undertaken.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between smoking and macular degeneration; and if he will make a statement; [184074]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned and evaluated no recent research on the relationship between smoking and macular degeneration.

Tattooing: Standards

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* accident and emergency admissions and *(b)* GP appointments arising from poorly performed or unhygenic tattooing and body piercing in each of the last three years. [178636]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department has funded the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to investigate the prevalence of cosmetic body piercing in the general population in England age 16 years and over, the proportion of piercings developing complications and the proportion of piercings where professional help was sought after the piercing. The HPA is seeking to publish the results of the research in a peer-reviewed journal this year.

Tobacco

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to prevent those under the age of 18 years purchasing cigarettes from vending machines; [178651]

(2) if he will strengthen the regulations on the sale of cigarettes from vending machines to under 18-year-olds. [183749]

Dawn Primarolo: There remains concern that too many children and young people under the age of 18 years purchase cigarettes from vending machines. The "Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2006" survey found that 17 per cent., of 11 to 15-year-olds who are regular smokers buy cigarettes from vending machines.

On 3 December 2007, the Department published the "Cancer Reform Strategy" which included a commitment to consult on proposals for the next steps in tobacco control and the further regulation of tobacco products, including access to tobacco from vending machines. This consultation will take place during spring 2008.

Tuberculosis: Screening

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use is made by the NHS of the polymerase chain reaction test for testing for specific strains of tuberculosis in patients. [183958]

Dawn Primarolo: The Mycobacterium Reference Unit (MRU) in the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has offered a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic service to the national health service since 1999.

PCR is a method that detects small amounts and parts of the organism's genetic material. It can be used for the following purposes:

To detect Mycobacteria (the organisms that cause tuberculosis);

To distinguish between "Mycobacterium tuberculosis", which causes most cases of tuberculosis and other species of Mycobacteria;

To identify strains of "Mycobacterium tuberculosis" that are resistant to the drugs that are usually used to treat tuberculosis; and

To look at strains of "Mycobacterium tuberculosis" from a group of people who have tuberculosis to see if they have the same strain. For example, this test can be used to indicate if the organism has spread between people in this group or if they have contracted tuberculosis from other people and have an unrelated strain.

Vaccination

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which approved *(a)* vaccines and *(b)* immunisations contain thiomersal; which are recommended for administration to children under the age of 18 years; and which are recommended to be taken before travelling abroad. [183889]

Dawn Primarolo: The vaccines used in the United Kingdom routine childhood immunisation programme do not contain thiomersal.

Thiomersal is used as a preservative in very small amounts in one influenza vaccine used in the UK. Thiomersal is also used in the production process for some hepatitis B vaccines and therefore residues may be present in the final product.

The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNac) is funded by the Department to promote clinical standards in travel medicine. Information on travel vaccinations recommended when travelling abroad is available from their website at www.nathnac.org/

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to assess the extent to which the guidance of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is implemented on *(a)* tuberculosis, *(b)* influenza, *(c)* human papilloma virus and *(d)* respiratory syncytial virus; [183908]

(2) what discussions Ministers have had with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on the implementation of the guidance it provides. [183909]

Dawn Primarolo: The role of Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is to advise United Kingdom Health Departments on matters relating to vaccine preventable communicable diseases. Departmental guidance based on JCVI advice is issued to the national health service through various information channels such as the Chief Medical Officer Letters, Chief Executives Bulletin, the guide Immunisation against infectious disease, websites and a range of NHS immunisation leaflets.

Vaccine uptake data are routinely collected for most national immunisation programmes, such as BCG and influenza, and will be collected when human papilloma virus vaccines are introduced. Data are not collected on the use of palivizumab in the NHS. The administration of palivizumab is carried out in a hospital setting, based on individual clinical need at that time and unlike vaccination programmes has no fixed denominator against which uptake can be monitored.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support is available to primary care trusts in implementing action pursuant to guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; [183910]

(2) what guidance exists for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities on the effective implementation of guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. [183911]

Dawn Primarolo: Guidance on the implementation of an immunisation programme is made available to the national health service and others through various information channels such as the Chief Medical Officer Letters, Chief Executives Bulletin, the guide Immunisation against infectious disease, websites and a range of NHS immunisation leaflets.

Funding for the implementation of immunisations is contained within the overall primary care trusts (PCTs) budget. Additional support is usually provided to PCTs to implement new vaccination programmes. A national conference for PCTs was held in October on the human papilloma virus vaccination programme. A second conference is planned, and a range of supporting resources is being made available on the www.immunisation.nhs.uk website as they are developed.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vaccines are being researched or developed in the UK. [183917]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Energy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries to modernise their energy sectors in the last five years. [184823]

Mr. Thomas: At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF) to support global action to tackle climate change. The framework will increase public and private sector investments in three areas, one of which is access to modern energy services in developing countries. The UK has committed £15 million to the CEIF so far.

Separately, the UK has established an £800 million international window of the UK Environment Trust Fund (ETF-IW) to reduce poverty through action on climate change. We are exploring how best to use this money to stimulate a step change in international financing for climate change. An important element will be to support developing countries adopt low carbon development paths, including the modernisation of their energy sectors.

DFID supports other international efforts to improve the provision of affordable energy in developing countries, such as the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP), the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI) and the Energy Sector Management Assistance programme (ESMAP). DFID has committed £4 million (2007-11) to GVEP, £3.8 million (2005-08) to ESMAP and £600,000 to the EUEI since 2004.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the end-use of UK aid to the Palestinian Authority in respect of books and educational materials used in schools; and if he will make a statement. [184569]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK does not fund Palestinian Authority education textbooks, nor do we provide funding to the Ministry of Education. The UK supports public services through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) but the TIM does not contribute to the production of educational materials.

The new Palestinian curriculum, introduced in the past few years, does not include textbooks that promote violence or hatred. This has been confirmed by the EC, reputable international academics and by the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), commissioned at the request of the United States.

Sierra Leone

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist Sierra Leone in developing its economy in the last five years. [184824]

Gillian Merron: In the immediate post-conflict period, UK Government's strategy in Sierra Leone focused on establishing peace and security, ensuring macroeconomic stability and re-building state institutions. The aim was to create the overall framework of stability and rule of law that was necessary for economic development to take hold. This strategy was complemented by specific economic programmes to support investment by removing many of the administrative barriers and improving governance in the mining sector. DFID has spent approximately £164 million over the last five years.

Currently the DFID Sierra Leone office is managing a £10 million portfolio of multi-year interventions to stimulate growth in the private sector, as well as a recently agreed £20 million programme to support the energy sector, and a £16 million programme to modernise tax administration, reducing costs of compliance for businesses.

South Africa: HIV Infection

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of South Africa on HIV/AIDS. [183473]

Gillian Merron: The DFID Southern Africa office and the British high commission in Pretoria hold regular discussions with the Government of South Africa on the issue of HIV and AIDS. In order to progress the UK's £30 million HIV and AIDS programme, DFID officials recently met with the South African Ministers for Health and Social Development and the vice chair of the South African National AIDS Council, which oversees the South African responses to AIDS.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress in tackling HIV/AIDS in South Africa; and if he will make a statement. [183475]

Gillian Merron: South Africa has the highest burden of HIV and AIDS in the world. Over 5.5 million people are infected, and it is estimated that in 2007 over one sixth of the world's population with HIV live in South Africa. Recent data from antenatal clinics suggest a modest decline in prevalence rates: in 2006, 29 per cent. of all pregnant women had HIV, down from 30 per cent. in 2005. However, the UNAIDS Global update states that there is no evidence of a decrease in HIV among young South Africans.

Over the past year there has been renewed optimism that South Africa is beginning to scale up efforts to tackle HIV and AIDS. On 3 May the South African Cabinet approved a new national strategic plan for AIDS, with interim targets that put South Africa on track to achieve universal access by 2011. The plan is overseen by a revitalised South African National AIDS Council which brings together all Government departments and 17 civil society sectors, including people living with HIV and AIDS, business, researchers, women, faith based organisations and traditional leaders. The UK provided technical assistance, through UNAIDS, to this revitalisation process.

DFID has also directly supported India (£28.5 million, 2002-10), Bangladesh (up to £50 million, 2005-10), and Iraq (about £21 million since 2003) to upgrade their energy sectors. We have recently committed £20 million to help Sierra Leone (2008-13).

We spent approximately £1.75 million during the last five years on energy research to help developing countries address energy sector challenges and have committed a further £3.75 million (2007-12) to look at the contribution bio-energy can make to poverty reduction in Africa. We are planning to develop an additional research programme to look at energy policy options for developing countries as they consider what action is needed to tackle climate change.

South Africa: Overseas Aid

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was provided to South Africa by the Government in each of the last five years, broken down by type of aid. [183474]

Gillian Merron: Information on UK aid to South Africa is available in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2007'. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables:

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) on development to South Africa, 2002-03 to 2006-07

£000

Year	DFID Technical co-operation	DFID humanitarian assistance	Other DFID bilateral aid	Aid from other UK official sources	Total GPEX
2002-03	22,758	95	13,581	20,751	57,186
2003-04	23,856		18,520	50,956	93,332
2004-05	13,960		16,554	18,418	48,932
2005-06	15,608		13,370	50,388	79,366
2006-07	16,321		8,710	5,256	30,286

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2001-05

	South Africa (£000)
2001	9,639
2002	10,338
2003	11,458
2004	10,980
2005	13,699

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which universities his Department has formally requested to apply to establish an academy school. [184030]

Jim Knight: There is no process by which the Department for Children, Schools and Families formally requests universities to apply to establish an Academy.

However, the Department has had, and continues to have, discussions with a number of universities about the Academies programme.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that teachers are trained to inform young people about the dangers of alcohol abuse. [183494]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* Alcohol education should be delivered (along with other drug education) through well planned personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). We are committed to helping teachers and schools improve their planning and delivery of this important area and there is a Government-funded continuing professional development programme for PSHE, which all teachers of drug (including alcohol) education are encouraged to undertake. The programme, accredited by Roehampton university, is also open to community nurses and supports standards in the delivery of PSHE teaching. Over 6,000 teachers and nurses have been certificated or are participating in the programme.

Care Homes: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children's homes do not meet the national standards for care homes. [179571]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 January 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Since Ofsted took over the inspection of children's homes from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (on 1 April 2007), we have inspected against the Every Child Matters outcomes. Within these outcomes we judge compliance with the National Minimum Standards for children's homes and associated regulations.

As of 1 January 2008, there were 1,995 registered children's homes. Of these, 1,738 have been inspected at least once by Ofsted since 1 April 2007 and their inspection report finalised and ready for publication by 1 January 2008.

Of those inspected, 170 of the 1,738 children's homes were judged as providing inadequate care. This represents 10% of the total number of children's homes inspected, based on their last inspection during this time period.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Beverley Hughes, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and a copy will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Obesity

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to amend the initial teacher training syllabus to counteract childhood obesity. [183660]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* There is no prescribed curriculum or syllabus for initial teacher training, but to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status trainees must be able to demonstrate that they are aware of current legal requirements, national policies and guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of the well-being of children and young people.

The Government recently announced the first steps in their strategy to help people maintain healthy weight and live healthy lives and, as an important part of that, they are making food technology compulsory at key stage 3 for every 11 to 14-year-old from September 2011—with food technology lessons, involving practical cooking lessons and classes on diet, nutrition, hygiene and healthy food shopping. Extra food technology teachers are to be recruited to lead in this and the initial teacher training that they receive, specifically to teach this subject, will contain detail on diet and nutrition, as it does now.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on the use of teaching assistants to cover qualified teachers who are absent. [184199]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is absolutely clear that support staff such as teaching assistants are not substitutes for qualified teachers. Provided certain conditions are met, however, support staff are permitted to carry out "specified work", which includes delivering lessons to pupils. These conditions are set out in The Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) Regulations 2003 and (Amended) Regulations 2007 and accompanying Guidance http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/11731/Time_for_Standards_2007.pdf and are: that the member of staff concerned carries out the work in order to assist or support the work of a qualified teacher in the school and is subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified teacher in accordance with arrangements made by the head teacher of the school; and that the head teacher is satisfied that the support staff member has the skills, expertise and experience required to carry out the work.

In determining whether the person has the skills, expertise and experience required to carry out specified work, the head teacher should have regard to the standards for higher-level teaching assistants that are published by the Department.

In addition, the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group (WAMG), which includes the majority of school workforce associations and unions and employers, as well as the Department and Welsh Assembly Government, has published guidance on cover supervision.

http://www.tda.gov.uk/upload/resources/pdf/w/wamg_guidance_cover.pdf

During cover supervision, no active teaching takes place but pupils continue their learning by carrying out a pre-prepared exercise under supervision (usually by a member of support staff). The guidance makes clear that cover supervision is appropriate only for short-term absence and that the head teacher must be satisfied that the member of staff supervising the class has the necessary training and skills.

Guidance and support to schools on the use of support staff for providing cover, as well as more generally, is also available through a network of local authority-based workforce advisers funded by the Training and Development Agency for Schools. Any school wanting further advice on this issue is best advised to contact the local authority concerned.

Connexions Card

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons the Youth Opportunity Card pilots were conducted on a timescale shorter than that outlined in his Department's Youth Matters: Next Steps, Something to do, Somewhere to go, Someone to talk to; and if he will make a statement; [183233]

(2) how many pilots of the Youth Opportunity Card took place; how many cards were issued under those pilots; what the total cost of the pilots was; and if he will make a statement. [183234]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* In February 2007 we took the decision not to proceed with the Youth Opportunity Card pilots and therefore no cards were issued. For details on the reasons for this and the cost of the card project, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 945W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Food: Secondary Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to support schools in providing mandatory cooking lessons. [183840]

Jim Knight: To support schools to provide food technology to all their pupils at key stage 3 from September 2011 the Government will:

Make available approximately 800 secondary school food technology teacher training places during the next three years.

Introduce new specialist food technology higher level teaching assistants to strengthen the school workforce capacity to teach cooking.

Provide training and support through our Licence to Cook programme to schools which do not currently teach food technology. Licence to Cook' is a non-statutory cooking entitlement for 11 to 16-year-olds starting this September.

Make available £2.5 million a year from September 2011 towards the cost of ingredients for pupils entitled to free school meals. We will also explore with retailers and the food industry what they might do to help schools ensure that everyone has access to healthy basic ingredients.

Pilot innovative practical cookery rooms in BSF as it rolls out and disseminate exemplar designs to ensure that new schools include suitable 21st century spaces.

Carrying out over the coming months a survey of the 15 per cent. of secondary schools which do not currently offer food technology at key stage 3 in order to understand what additional support they will need to enable them to offer food technology.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the likely number of additional teachers needed to provide cookery lessons in schools for 11 to 14-year-olds over the next three years; [183771]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely cost of re-training existing teachers to provide cookery lessons in schools; [183772]

(3) how many secondary schools do not provide cookery lessons; [183773]

(4) what account the setting of teacher training intake targets for 2008 has taken of the policy on the provision of compulsory cookery classes; [183775]

(5) what discussions he has with the Training and Development Agency for Schools on increasing the number of teachers who specialise in teaching cookery. [183776]

Jim Knight: The Department has recently provided the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) with targets for teacher training places in secondary subjects for the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-2011. We will make available approximately 800 secondary school food technology teacher training places in this period.

These figures were all based on outputs from our teacher supply model, which takes account of range of factors that determine how many teacher training places we need to set for future years. One of these factors is new curriculum pressures or initiatives that will affect the number of teachers needed in different subjects, and one of these was a need to provide more teachers of food technology. The targets we gave the TDA therefore made allowance for an expansion in this area. The modelling and targets also took account of the fact that there will be significantly fewer secondary pupils in the next few years.

We have been working with the TDA to find ways of increasing the number of teachers of food technology in recent years. We will continue to do so in pursuit of this new commitment that the Government have announced.

Approximately 15 per cent. of secondary schools do not currently offer food technology at key stage 3. In March 2008 we will be carrying out a survey of these schools in order to understand what additional support will be needed to enable them to offer food technology. In advance of the results of that survey, no estimate has been made of the cost of retraining existing teachers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether compulsory cookery lessons will be provided in academies. [183774]

Jim Knight: Cookery lessons will not be compulsory in academies. However, we expect all academies to offer cookery courses as they all have or will have high quality cooking facilities.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* food labelling, *(b)* farming, *(c)* the origins of food and *(d)* obesity become part of the compulsory cooking lessons syllabus for children aged 11 to 14 years. [183890]

Jim Knight: Beginning in September 2008, the revised key stage 3 design and technology programme of study will require pupils to be taught:

a broad range of practical skills, techniques and equipment and standard recipes, and how to use them to develop, plan and cook meals and single or multiple products;

how to plan and carry out a broad range of practical cooking tasks safely and hygienically;

healthy eating models relating to a balanced diet, nutritional needs of different groups in society and factors affecting food choice and how to take these into account when planning, preparing and cooking meals and products; and

the characteristics of a broad range of ingredients including their nutritional, functional and sensory properties.

Food technology will be an optional strand of the programme of study from 2008 and become compulsory in all maintained schools from September 2011.

We are supporting the Year of Food and Farming that is bringing together a unique education and industry partnership across the country to help schools teach about farming and the origins of food. Our Growing Schools programme will take forward the legacy from the year, providing continued support for schools, including information and guidance on farm visits.

Foster Care

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of local authorities in administering support required by primary legislation to parents who foster and adopt children. [183551]

Kevin Brennan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to her on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 532W.

The research study into the specialist support services available for birth parents in adoption cases, referred to in the earlier reply, is now due to report to the Department in September 2008.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* couples and *(b)* individuals made enquiries to local authorities to (i) foster and (ii) adopt a child or children in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [183553]

Kevin Brennan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to her on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 532W.

Gifted Children

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the criteria are for access to the Gifted and Talented scheme; and what measures his Department has taken to ensure that selection for the scheme is fair and objective. [183738]

Jim Knight: Secondary schools and post-16 institutions are asked to identify those pupils who meet the published criteria for the national top 5 per cent. by ability whether or not they were known to be registered with the former National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY). These criteria are at:

http://ygt.dcsf.gov.uk/FileLinks/312_MainLink.pdf

All primary and secondary schools and post-16 institutions are also asked to identify as gifted and talented pupils whose ability is developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group within that school/college, or who have the potential to develop such ability. Schools and colleges are expected to follow the Department's guidance at:

http:/ygt.dcsf.gov.uk/FileLinks/
312_DFES%20identification%20document.pdf

Intimidation: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many reported cases of bullying there were in each school in Easington constituency in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [183027]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions in each local authority area by reason for exclusion have been placed in the Library. This includes a category relating to bullying. School level data on exclusions by reason could be produced only at disproportionate costs.

Physical Education

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the amount of physical education training provided during initial teacher training for primary school teachers. [183661]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: Training providers must design their programmes to enable trainees to meet the standards for qualified teacher status. These standards set out what the outcomes of training must be, but neither this Department nor the Training and Development Agency for Schools prescribe either the content of training, or the amount of time that must be spent on each aspect of it.

Most training takes place in schools and this provides trainees with the opportunities they need to meet all of the standards. The standards themselves require trainees to be able to teach across the range of core and non-core subjects of the pupils' curriculum, including PE. In addition, all trainees are expected to be able to create safe learning environments when they teach.

The overall amount of time available for training on many primary programmes is inevitably limited. Training providers themselves make professional judgments about the balance of the various elements of the training programme. Additionally, they are required to take account of individual training needs and to personalise training provision to meet the needs of individual trainees. The specification of training hours for aspects of provision would not be consistent with this flexible approach.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the public spending on Sure Start, early years and childcare announced on 2 August 2007 will be allocated to each of the five projects mentioned in the announcement in each of the next three years. [183813]

Beverley Hughes: Over £4 billion has been allocated to Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare in the next three years and will help to improve life for disadvantaged children in England.

The following table shows a breakdown of funds allocated between 2008-09 and 2010-11:

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Children's Centres	574	748	883
Sufficiency and Access	122	127	129
Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion	127	147	164
Graduate Leader Fund	40	57	79
Extended Schools	69	0	0
Early Years Foundation Stage	5	0	0
Sure Start Local Programmes	311	275	252

	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Total	1,248	1,354	1,507

Notes:

1. The announcement made in August 2007 mentioned five aims which the funding will contribute to. However, the funding was actually allocated across the seven areas shown in the table.

2. In July 2007, a sum of £1.1 billion was announced for Extended Schools for the next three years. This amount includes the £69 million stated in the table, to meet the start up cost for Extended Schools. The majority of extended schools funding will be delivered via other funding routes, including area-based grant and the Standards Fund.

Pupils

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government have taken to improve the emotional wellbeing of school children since 1997; [183839]

(2) what support the Government provide to schools for children with mental health problems. [184119]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* A variety of work has been developed to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of school children. The National Healthy Schools programme which has existed since 1999 promotes a whole school approach to both physical and emotional health, and one of its core themes is emotional health and wellbeing. To achieve national healthy school status, schools now need to satisfy the criteria for all four core themes and last year new guidance was issued on promoting emotional health and wellbeing to support work in this area. Currently 95 per cent. of schools have joined the National Healthy Schools programme and 55 per cent. are meeting the new standards.

The National Framework for Children and Young People and Maternity Services (NSF), published in 2004, set out a 10-year programme of improvements for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). In support of this, grant funding to local authorities for CAMHS has increased from £10 million in 1999-2000 to £91 million in each financial year from 2003-04 to 2007-08 to strengthen the provision of targeted mental health services for children and adolescents. We also announced plans in 2007 for an independent review of CAMHS.

The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme was created to develop all children and young people's social and emotional skills at school, which help to underpin emotional wellbeing, and it was made available to primary schools in 2005. Approximately 60 per cent. of primary schools have voluntarily adopted SEAL, and 15 to 20 per cent. of secondary schools are expected to start implementing it by July 2008.

In 2007 we announced that we will invest an additional £60 million over three years to support schools to work with mental health practitioners and others to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of pupils.

Pupils: Fingerprints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Essex fingerprint pupils; and if he will make a statement. [178838]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The Department is not aware of any schools in Essex which fingerprint pupils. Some schools may use biometric technology systems involving the recording of some fingerprint characteristics.

The Department does not routinely keep records of such schools since the decision to introduce biometric technology is for each school to make.

Schools: Closures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools closed in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [183809]

Jim Knight: The primary and secondary schools that have closed within the last five years, by year and local authority are shown in a document that has been placed in the House Library.

Schools can be closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the closing date is for applications for grants from the basic needs allocation-related safety valve fund in the present period; [184083]

(2) how much has been allocated to the basic needs allocation-related safety valve fund; [184084]

(3) how many applications for the basic needs allocation-related safety valve fund have been made, broken down by *(a)* authority and *(b)* value of application. [184085]

Jim Knight: The closing date for applications for basic need safety valve funding, in respect of the spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11, is 29 February. No budget has been allocated specifically for these applications as this is a demand-led programme. Total additional capital allocations for new pupil places will depend upon the value of successful applications that are received.

No completed application has yet been received.

Schools: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many incidents involving knives were reported at schools in England in 2007; [184032]

(2) how many knives were confiscated at schools in England in 2007. [184033]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Schools: Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many groups of parents have established maintained schools under section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006; and where these schools are located. [184024]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* No schools have yet been established by groups of parents under section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. With the support of the local authority, proposals have been published by a group which include parents for a new secondary school to open in Sheffield in 2011 to replace two closing schools. There is also interest from parents' groups in entering proposals for new schools into competitions.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the future of small rural schools; what discussions he has had with the National Association for Small Schools on closures of such schools; and if he will make a statement. [183808]

Jim Knight: There has been no change in Government policy towards small rural schools. The Department has taken, and will continue to take, measures to support both schools and communities in rural areas. The presumption against the closure of rural primary schools, which we introduced in 1998, is working well and local authorities must continue to make decisions on the future of rural schools in accordance with our statutory guidance.

Responsibility for the overall planning of school places rests with local authorities and we expect them to ensure that school places are where parents want them. The case for closure needs to be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. There are other actions that can be taken to reduce surplus places without closing schools.

The Secretary of State has not had discussions with the National Association for Small Schools but I have responded to correspondence from this organisation in December 2007 confirming the measures that are in place to protect small rural schools.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will undertake an assessment of the appropriateness of the value for money criteria in relation to the schools grant for providing education services in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [184225]

Jim Knight: The distribution mechanism for DSG does not include value for money criteria in relation to education services in rural areas. The starting point for the calculation of 2008-09 DSG allocation is each authority's DSG guaranteed unit of funding per pupil, which in turn depends on the amount the authority budgeted to spend in 2005-06. This was closely related to the Schools Formula Spending Share (FSS) calculation, which took account (as one of a number of factors) of the needs of rural authorities through an addition for pupils in primary schools: this recognised the additional costs faced by rural authorities in keeping open more small primary schools than other authorities.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 174-75W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings (Mr. Hayes), on secondary education: standards, what the figures are excluding pupils from selective schools. [184023]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The table shows the number and rate of permanent and fixed period exclusions from grammar and other secondary schools for the latest available reporting period.

Secondary schools[1] Number of exclusions—2005/06—England

	Grammar schools	*Other secondary schools*	*Total*
Number of permanent exclusions[2]	40	7,950	7,990
Percentage of school population[3]	0.03	0.25	0.24
Number of fixed period exclusions	2,290	341,550	343,840
Percentage of school population[3]	1.47	10.84	10.40

[1] Excludes city technology colleges and academies. Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Figures relating to permanent exclusions have been estimated.

[3] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Separation

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons why (i) foster family units break down and (ii) family units with an adopted child or children breakdown. [183548]

Kevin Brennan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to her on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 565W. No further research has been commissioned since that reply was given.

The research study referred to in the earlier reply is now due to report to the Department in December 2008.

Special Educational Needs: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many appeals against a refusal on the part of Essex County Council to issue a statement of special needs there were in each of the last five years. [178821]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007 (the last five calendar years) the special educational needs and disability tribunal (SENDIST) has registered 19 appeals against Essex LEA where the type of appeal was "against refusal to make a statement". This was out of a total of 674 appeals that SENDIST registered against Essex LEA.

Special Educational Needs: Somerset

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many tribunals were held in Somerset relating to children with special educational needs statements in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the outcome was of those tribunals. [183450]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The special educational needs and disability tribunal (SENDIST) publish statistical information in its annual reports by the school year. In the latest period, 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007, SENDIST decided 12 appeals against Somerset local education authority. Of the 12 appeals decided, seven were upheld, either wholly or in part, and five dismissed.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Somerset had special educational needs statements at the latest date for which figures are available. [183451]

Kevin Brennan: In 2007 there were 1,266 pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) maintained by Somerset local authority.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the special educational needs budget is for Somerset county council in 2007-08; how much of the budget is allocated to each category of special educational needs; and how much is allocated for *(a)* the employment of staff and *(b)* other expenditure. [183452]

Kevin Brennan: The information for Somerset local authority about what the budget is for special educational needs is as follows:

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1] [2]*, 2007-08*[3] [4]

	£
Somerset local authority	40,845,000

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. In addition to the planned expenditure in the table, Somerset LA also budgeted £3.3 million for SEN transport expenditure during 2007-08.

[3] 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.

Notes:

1. Cash terms figures as reported by Somerset local authority as at 29 January 2008.
2. The data are drawn from Somerset local authority's 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF (formally the DfES).

The Department does not collect separate figures on how much is allocated for the employment of staff and other expenditure.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of teachers that will be required to undergo training to teach a syllabus for the new diplomas. [184052]

Jim Knight: The Department has estimated that up to 3,800 teachers (including those in the further education and post-compulsory education sectors) will be required to undergo training to prepare for the first teaching of diplomas in September 2008.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost per head of the training which teachers will be required to undertake to teach a syllabus for the new diplomas. [184064]

Jim Knight: The Department directly funds a package of blended support that includes face to face training supplemented by a combination of materials, online resources and access to local teacher development networks. The current face to face training component is estimated to cost about £1,160 per head.

Sure Start

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on Sure Start, what discussions his Department has had with Kent County Council on the allocation of its ring-fenced Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant since 9 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [184090]

Beverley Hughes: There have been no further discussions between officials in the Department and Kent county council on the allocation of the ring-fenced Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant since my response to my hon. Friend the Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey's (Derek Wyatt) question on 9 January 2008. Together for Children, the consortium we have appointed to support local authorities during the development of Sure Start Children's Centres, are, however, in discussion with Kent county council's Early Years Officers about their future plans for children's centres. The memorandum of grant for 2008-09, referred to in my earlier answer, will be issued to Kent county council shortly. This will set out the conditions attached to the Grant and make clear that the ring fenced grant can only be used for services in Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs), and centres based on SSLPs, and cannot be used for new children's centres.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reviews of teachers' pay are scheduled to take place in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [183461]

Jim Knight: In his parliamentary statement of 15 January 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has indicated that he intends to set the School Teachers' Review Body a remit in the course of 2008 to enable them to ensure that the teachers' pay increases they have proposed for 2009 and 2010 continue to be appropriate.

Teachers: Yorkshire and Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in (i) Yorkshire and Humber and (ii) City of York in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [183489]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff employed in local authority maintained schools in England, Yorkshire and the Humber government office region and the City of York local authority in England, January 1997 and 2007.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff in local authority maintained schools in England, Yorkshire and the Humber government office region and the City of York local authority, January 1997 and 2007

	Regular teachers[1]		*Teaching assistants*[2] [3]		*Support staff*[4] *(excluding teaching assistants)*	
	1997	*2007*	*1997*	*2007*	*1997*	*2007*
England	399,200	435,200	60,580	162,990	72,900	142,610
Yorkshire and the Humber	41,900	44,600	7,700	17,920	7,160	15,370
City of York	1,290	1,400	140	520	180	[illegible]

[1] Source—DCSF annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618 g)

[2] Source—DCSF School Census

[3] Teaching assistants include special needs support staff and minority ethnic support staff.

[4] Support staff include administrative staff, technicians and other support staff.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Truancy: Females

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many girls between the ages of 13 and 16 were removed from school rolls after failing to return from an authorised absence abroad during 2006. [183546]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Young People: Transport

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to encourage sharing good practice in the provision of transport for young people since his Department published, "Youth matters: next steps", in March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [183173]

Beverley Hughes: As a result of "Youth Matters: Next Steps", the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to positive activities. To do so local authorities will need to identify and address barriers to access, including, where applicable and practicable, issues associated with the provision of transport. There are a number of ways in which local authorities can tackle transport barriers, including using subsidy and involving young people in local transport planning.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families signalled its further commitment to improving transport for young people taking part in positive activities through "Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities" published in July 2007. The strategy contains a commitment to improve existing guidance, support and challenge to children's trusts and transport planners to encourage joined up planning and commissioning of transport for the benefit of young people.

DCSF is working with Department for Transport colleagues to develop plans to implement this commitment.

In Bedfordshire, £50,000 of Youth Opportunity Fund money is supporting a transport scheme to help young people in rural areas access activities. In Nottingham, the DCSF is supporting the city council in a pilot which will give economically disadvantaged young people the equivalent of £20 a month free public transport to help them access positive activities.

Youth Services: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on youth centres in each of the last 12 months. [182766]

Beverley Hughes: Youth centres are delivered locally by local authorities through their youth provision and national and local voluntary youth organisations. Information is not held centrally on how much has been spent on youth centres at local, regional or national level. However, the following table includes details of the planned net expenditure on youth service by local authorities in England for 2007-08:

Planned net expenditure on youth service by local authorities in England 2007-08

	2007-08 (£)[1] [2]
Planned net expenditure on youth service[3] by local authorities in England	410,373,000

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

[2] 2007-08 figures is subject to change by the local authority.

[3] Youth service includes the following items of planned expenditure on the youth service and youth work:
Employees
Staff Training
Premises related expenditure
Transport related expenditure
Supplies and services
Third-party payments
Support services
Youth work costs at residential and non-residential youth centres
Youth work costs at activity at outdoor and urban studies centres
Grant funding to the voluntary sector for youth work.

Notes:

1. Figures are drawn from local authorities 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statements (Table 1 line 2.7.1) submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES).
2. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 28 January 2008.

JUSTICE

Bail: Crimes of Violence

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many violent offences were committed by persons on bail during the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by category of offence. [183493]

Maria Eagle: Court proceedings data held by my Department do not identify whether persons were on bail at the time of committing an offence.

Bail: Reoffenders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider introducing procedures to improve the accountability of the magistracy for decisions to grant bail to defendants who then commit further crimes while on bail. [184811]

Maria Eagle: The court's decision on whether to grant bail or remand a defendant in custody is governed by the Bail Act 1976. The court must decide on each occasion, with all the information before it, if the defendant presents such a bail risk as to warrant custody. This decision is an exercise of judicial discretion.

Compensation: Industrial Diseases

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to ensure Coal Health Compensation Schemes are being effectively dealt with. [183442]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department negotiated Claims Handling Agreements (CHAs) for each of the Coal Health Compensation Schemes with the groups representing claimants' solicitors. These set out in detail how claims will be processed. They also provide for solicitors costs of successful claims to be met by the Department to ensure claimants are legally represented.

The Department also has in place detailed audit procedures to ensure that all its contractors comply with the procedures set down under the CHAs for the Coal Health Compensation Schemes.

With regard to individual offers, claimant representatives have access to all of the Department's calculators and are able to confirm the offer made.

There are also dispute procedures in place should the representative or client wish to query the amount.

The CHAs can be viewed on the Department's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal-health/publications/claims-handling-agreements/page16256.html

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken in relation to solicitors and third parties who have billed clients claiming under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme. [183443]

Bridget Prentice: The Government believes it is important that miners who complain to the Law Society under the coal health compensation schemes get the level of service and compensation they deserve. The Government therefore takes a close interest in this issue.

The legal profession is independent and as such complaints about solicitors are a matter for the Law Society rather than Government. However the Government seeks regular updates from the Law Society and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to ensure that progress is being made in dealing with these complaints against solicitors. The Government appointed the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner in 2004 as an independent regulator of the Law Society's complaints handling functions.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has authorised investigations into 60 firms of solicitors; 20 firms have been referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and the SRA has won the first three disciplinary cases heard there. To date, solicitors have refunded over £3 million to miners. This figure is expected to rise as more investigations are completed.

The Government have legislated in the Legal Services Act 2007 to create an independent Office for Legal Complaints, which will remove complaints handling from the legal professional bodies. It will also enable approved regulators to deal more effectively with cases of widespread wrongdoing in the future.

In June 2007, the Government sent a joint letter to all the solicitors involved in the scheme to remind them again of their obligations to pay back money to claimants where this was taken without their consent.

The LCS is taking forward awareness raising initiatives such as the Rother Valley Pilot which involved mailing an information pack to each named individual on the DBERR database of original government coal health compensation schemes COPD and VWF claimants within the Rother Valley parliamentary constituency.

The LCS will now write to all living claimants on the DBERR database in order to raise awareness and to identify all outstanding consumer dissatisfaction within a 12-month period.

Constituencies

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated general election electorate will be of each Parliamentary constituency under the revised Parliamentary boundaries for England that will be in operation for the next general election. [184045]

Bridget Prentice: The report of the Boundary Commission for England, Cm 7032, published in 2007, contains the boundary commission's proposals for parliamentary constituencies in England. It provides the electorate for each new constituency in England as at 2000 and 2006. The Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 2007 gave effect without modification to the recommendations in the boundary commission's report and the new boundaries will take effect at the next parliamentary general election. I understand that ONS will publish on 28 February a table of parliamentary electors by parliamentary constituency using the new boundaries based on data from the 2007 canvass of electors.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Government will take steps to ensure that the rules for the next Parliamentary boundary reviews reduce the likelihood of a deviation of constituency electorates from quota of more than 10 per cent. above/below quota. [184047]

Bridget Prentice: Under the current rules governing reviews by the boundary commissions, the electorate of any constituency must be as near the electoral quota (broadly, this is the average number of electors in each constituency) as is practicable. The boundary commissions may depart from strict application of the rules in specified circumstances, in particular if special geographical considerations apply. The Government agreed in their response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's Eleventh report, "Review of the Electoral Commission", that it would be appropriate to review the current legislation in relation to the conduct of parliamentary boundary work. Any review is likely to consider the sorts of issues raised by the hon. Member.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many coroner inquest cases into the deaths of armed forces personnel overseas are outstanding. [182942]

Bridget Prentice: I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement published on 31 January for details of the status of all inquests into the deaths of armed forces personnel overseas as at 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 35-37WS. Since this date a further five inquests have been heard.

Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many crimes were committed by people on bail in the last period for which figures are available. [183538]

Maria Eagle: Court proceedings data held by my Department do not identify whether persons were on bail at the time of committing an offence.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have not yet come into force; and when he expects each to come into force; [183948]

(2) which provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have yet to come into force; and when he expects each to come into force. [185089]

Mr. Straw: Only a small percentage of the 335 substantive sections in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have yet to be fully implemented. These are: S.23A; s.34-s.35; s.43; s.62-s.66; s.137-s.138; s.151; s.154-s.155; s.161; s.181; s.188; s.280-s.283; and s.298.

Officials are actively working on these areas of legislation with a view to implementation, considering resource implications; undertaking pilot exercises; or examining other necessary procedures and practices.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what products featuring departmental or Government branding have been procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies since its establishment. [179796]

Maria Eagle: Since the Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007, my Department has procured a range of products with the new Ministry of Justice branding, as part of our ongoing communications to stakeholders and the general public. These comprised:

Corporate display materials

Publications (including corporate reports, consultation and research papers)

Public information booklets

Building signage

Hard stationery such as pre-printed letterheads, business cards and compliment slips

Lanyards

The executive agencies within the Ministry of Justice produce materials using their own branding.

The MOJ branding also appears on electronic media such as Ministerial press notices and the Ministry of Justice website.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171534]

Maria Eagle: Year-end-bonus payments are awarded to high performing staff in all grades to reflect their individual contribution during the previous year. Performance years run from 1 April to 31 March. The following table reflects payments to staff on former DCA terms and conditions:

	£
2002-03	779,357
2003-04	1,024,750
2004-05	1,385,594
2005-06	1,567,635
2006-07	1,834,466

With the establishment of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, HM Prison Service became an agency of the new Ministry. Information on bonus payments to staff in HM Prison Service is available only at disproportionate costs. In addition, under the same the machinery of Government changes, approximately 3,200 former Home Office Civil Servants joined the Ministry of Justice. These staff were subject to the Home Office pay award during 2002-07 and payments to them (including those for the Office of Criminal Justice Reform and the Probation Service) are included in the figures provided by in the response to the same question for the Home Office.

Electoral Register

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* ongoing costs of introducing individual electoral registration. [184057]

Bridget Prentice: The Government agree with the principle of individual registration but is not yet convinced that it could be implemented in Great Britain (GB) without causing a significant drop in the registration rate.

An assessment of the set up and ongoing cost for introducing individual registration was made following the Electoral Commission's Voting for Change Report in 2003.

At that time, it was estimated that the cost of an annual canvass under household registration stood at approximately £40 million. Likely costs of the annual canvass under individual registration were estimated at approximately £55 million and the one off set-up costs of implementing individual registration at approximately £17 million. These figures did not take account of the potential for the ongoing costs of individual registration to be mitigated by reducing the frequency of the annual canvass as in Northern Ireland.

Under section 67 the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Commission has power to collect financial information about expenditure of registration. This will provide up to date and more complete data to estimate costs for policy changes for elections in the future.

Our vision for electoral registration is clear: we want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the UK's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Any new system of electoral registration in Great Britain would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular, would need to address the challenge of under registration as an estimated 3.5 million eligible electors are not currently registered to vote.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the process for determining the security requirements for the CORE electoral database; and which consultancies have been employed to produce a business impact assessment. [184067]

Bridget Prentice: The security requirements of the CORE electoral database will be determined within the overall specification by business and user requirements. An analysis of those requirements should be completed by the end of the year. Under current plans an appointment should be made by April following completion of a competitive tender. In the meantime, as a first step, Vega Group plc have been employed to undertake a business impact assessment to establish the protective marking of data held on the CORE system.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the specifications for the CORE electoral database will facilitate the sharing of data with the National Identity Register; and whether the database will have an interface with the register. [184068]

Bridget Prentice: At present there are no plans for the CORE database to link with any other database other than local electoral registers, nor for the data held by CORE to be shared with the National Identity Register. A final decision as to the scope and specification of the CORE project will be made once an analysis of both the business and user requirements has been made. The requirements gathering exercise should be completed by the end of this year.

Enforcement Restriction Orders: Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his proposals for enforcement restriction orders will allow householders in financial difficulty to delay payment of council tax payments. [184041]

Bridget Prentice: Council tax benefit is available to help those genuinely in need to meet their council tax commitments. A consultation paper 'Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: setting the parameters' (CP01/08) was issued on 16 January 2008.

The consultation paper suggests that council tax should be specifically excluded from an enforcement restriction order. A final decision will be made when we have received and evaluated responses from the consultation.

Fraud: Elections

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what anti-fraud measures will be in place for the *(a)* English local elections, *(b)* Welsh elections and *(c)* Greater London Authority elections in May 2008 to prevent postal voting fraud and electoral registration fraud. [184040]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a range of new anti-fraud measures that came into force in time for the May 2007 elections and apply to English local elections, Welsh local and Assembly elections and Greater London authority elections held thereafter. They include:

The introduction of personal identifiers for postal voters, which will help to ensure that postal voting is safe and secure.

The new offence of falsely applying for a postal or proxy vote.

Allowing any individual to object to another person's registration details at any time.

Allowing an electoral registration officer (ERO) to initiate and conduct a review of a person's registration at any time.

Creating a new criminal offence of supplying false information or failing to supply information to the ERO at any time.

Giving the police more time to carry out investigations into electoral fraud (they may apply to court to have the normal one year limit for bringing prosecutions increased to two years).

Harassment Act 1997

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2202W, on the Harassment Act 1997, how many prosecutions were brought by *(a)* local authorities against individuals and *(b)* individuals against local authorities in each year since the Act entered into force. [183919]

Maria Eagle: I will respond to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Maria Eagle to Dan Rogerson:

If a prosecution is brought by a local authority against an individual or vice versa it falls within the jurisdiction of the civil courts.

Information on civil proceedings is not held centrally.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were serving whole life orders at the latest date for which figures are available. [184012]

Mr. Hanson: As at 31 December 2007, the number of indeterminate sentence prisoners serving a whole-life tariff was 35.

National Offender Management Service: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed in the National Offender Management Service in Wales; and how many will be employed in the new structures *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months after the restructuring to be implemented on 1 April. [184935]

Mr. Hanson: 2,886 staff are currently employed by the National Offender Management Service in Wales. This number comprises:

	Number
Staff employed by Her Majesty's Prison Service	960
Staff employed by Probation Boards	1,351
Staff employed by the Director of Offender Management	17
Staff employed by Group 4 at HMP Parc	558

We are currently consulting on the proposals. We do not expect front line staff numbers in either prison or probation to change as a result of the new structures. It is not possible at this stage to say how many staff will be employed in the office of the Welsh Director of Offender Management either one month, six months, or 12 months after the restructuring has been implemented. It will be for the Director of Offender Management for Wales, supported by NOMS HQ, to determine exactly how the new merged office will be structured.

Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were granted reductions in sentences for guilty pleas in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [184013]

Mr. Hanson: Table 2.19 of the Ministry of Justice annual publication 'Sentencing Statistics 2006' shows the number of persons sentenced for indictable offences broken down by plea:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sentencing-stats2006.pdf

It is not possible to be certain that all those who plead guilty are granted reductions in their sentences. However, the Sentencing Guidelines Council guidelines on guilty pleas say that a reduction should be considered by the sentencer when a defendant pleads guilty.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who were given custodial sentences for driving offences served concurrent driving bans as part of their sentence in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [184014]

Mr. Hanson: Although the court proceedings data held by my Department provide information on the sentencing of individuals for individual offences, including whether they are disqualified from driving as a result of those offences, they do not hold information on whether each person is already banned from driving when sentence is passed.

Offenders: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who come from Wales are in prison; and how many are the subject of community penalties. [184939]

Mr. Hanson: Data for September 2007 show that there were approximately 3,800 male and female prisoners with a home area of Wales in custody in prisons in England and Wales. Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

At the end of September 2007 there were 9,286 offenders being supervised by the Probation Service in Wales under all court orders. Information on how many offenders under court order supervision originally came from Wales is not recorded centrally.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many absconds there have been from open prisons since May 1997. [178750]

Mr. Hanson: Since 1997 the number of absconds has fallen steadily across most years. In the last two years the number of absconds recorded has been just over half the levels recorded in 1997.

The information requested is in the following table and shows the number of prisoners absconded from prisons which have, or had in the past, an open or semi-open element. This figure does not include absconds from other types of prison.

	Number of absconds[1]
1995-96	956
1996-97	1,115
1997-98	1,056
1998-99	965
1999-2000	907

	Number of absconds[1]
2000-01	787
2001-02	782
2002-03	950
2003-04	1,310
2004-05	877
2005-06	709
2006-07	555
2007-08 (to end December)	421
Annualised projection to year-end	561

[1] All prisons—England and Wales.

Parole Board

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Parole Board decisions were made in each of the last three years; and what percentage of these were unanimous decisions. [184011]

Mr. Hanson: According to the information provided in the Parole Board Annual Reports, the Parole Board reviewed 18,583 cases in 2004-05, 19,402 cases in 2005-06 and 25,436 cases in 2006-07. The Parole Board does not record whether decisions are unanimous and therefore this information is not available.

Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many branded plastic bags his Department and its agencies have purchased since his Department was created; and at what cost; [184051]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, on procurement, how many plastic bags have been procured by the division of his Department responsible for communications and marketing; and at what cost. [184053]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice, the National Offender Management Service and the Prison Service do not procure promotional bags under the departmental supplies contracts.

In past years, there have been isolated projects where promotional material has been produced. The following table shows how the number and costs of branded plastic bags the communications and marketing department has procured in each area and agency of the Ministry of Justice since its creation on 9 May 2007.

	Number of bags purchased	Total cost of purchase (£)
Ministry of Justice Headquarters	0	0
Public Guardianship Office	10,000	1,300
Office of Criminal Justice Reform	35,000 promotional bio-degradable carrier bags	3,325
National Offender Management Service	2,000	921
Probation Service	10,000	1,500
Her Majesty's Court Service	5,500 promotional carrier bags	489.50

A sustainability board has been established and is reviewing current arrangements.

Prisoner Escapes

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* escapes and *(b)* unapproved absences there were from prisons in England in each of the last five years. [183949]

Mr. Straw: The number of escapes and incidents of unapproved absences over the last five years from prisons in England is shown in the following table. The figures shown for prisoners breaching the terms of their temporary release licence may include prisoners whose breach of licence conditions has not been considered serious enough to recall them. While the latter are not unapproved absences it is not possible to distinguish this type of licence breach without examining every incident report which would incur disproportionate cost.

Data on escapes, absconds and temporary release licence failures are published for all prisons at the following link:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Number of escapes and incidents of unapproved absences over the last five years from prisons in England

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Escapes prisons	4	9	12	3	2
Escapes prison escorts	12	6	8	8	6
Escapes prison escort contractors[1]	33	33	28	17	19
Absconds[2]	942	1,275	858	700	546

[1] Figures for escapes from Prison Escort Contractors include the four Welsh prisons that are not run as a separate contract and cannot be disaggregated from the overall totals.

[2] Absconds are instances where a prisoner absents himself from prison custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security restraints usually from open prisons.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released on end of custody licenses were recalled for being out of touch with their supervising probation officer in the latest period for which figures are available. [182771]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years may be released under licence from prison up to up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment, and recalls notified to NOMS, have been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Data on releases up to the end of December 2007 have recently been published and the schedule for further publications can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-stats-schedule.pdf

There were 233 decisions to recall prisoners released on end of custody licence between 29 June and the end of December 2007, for the reason of being out of touch with the probation service, equivalent to 1.4 per cent. of all releases under ECL in the same period.

Offenders can be recalled for more than one reason.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released on end of custody licences in each month since July 2007; and how many of those have been taken back into custody for offending during the period of their licence. [182774]

Mr. Hanson: The end of custody licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years may be released under licence from prison up to up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment, and recalls notified to NOMS, have been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Data on releases up to the end of December 2007 will be published at the end of January 2008 according to the schedule of MoJ statistical publications (http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-stats-schedule.pdf)

Figures for the numbers of prisoners released on end of custody licence between 29 June and the end of November 2007, the last date for statistics are currently available, can be found in the following table:

Releases on end of custody licence, 29 June to November 2007

	Releases	Recalls for alleged reoffending
29 June to 5 July	1,701	6
6 July to 31 July	2,131	35
August	2,493	30
September	2,195	13
October	2,612	34
November	2,610	38

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Bail Hostels

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what reasons he is considering accommodating prisoners in bail hostels; what types of prisoners he is considering for that accommodation; and in what locations; [183735]

(2) what consultations he plans to hold with police and local authorities before housing rented for asylum seekers is used as bail hostels; [183824]

(3) what plans he has to establish further bail houses in North East Lincolnshire; what category of prisoner each will accommodate; and what capacity each will have. [183828]

Mr. Hanson: I understand these questions to refer to the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. These are not bail hostels. The service provides accommodation in flats and houses with up to five people sharing, and support to users.

We are providing this service because we consider that prison should be reserved for those who need to be held in custody in order to protect the public. Those defendants, innocent until proven guilty, who can be bailed should be so. Judges and magistrates have consistently asked that we provide more bail accommodation because there are numbers of defendants without accommodation whom the courts consider can be bailed if such accommodation, with necessary support, is made available. Similarly there are prisoners eligible for release on home detention curfew, with a tag, who cannot be released because they do not have an address at which they can be curfewed. The service enables prison governors to make decisions to release such people. It is not in the public interest to keep in prison people who do not need to be there.

The service is available for defendants whom the courts have assessed as suitable for bail, and for sentenced prisoners released on home detention curfew after a thorough risk assessment by the prison governor. Excluded from the service are those convicted of or charged with sex offences, those convicted of arson in the last 10 years or charged with arson and those who pose a significant risk to the public or to ClearSprings staff or to others in a shared house.

A list of towns or areas where accommodation is currently provided or is being sought was included in my written answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1655W).

12 ClearSprings properties now used for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service were used previously for the ClearSprings asylum contract. The local authorities and police were consulted as to suitability, and were advised when the premises were made available for BASS.

There is currently one four-bed property in Grimsby. This was not previously used for asylum seekers. A three-bed property is being sought in Scunthorpe. This requirement has been identified by the regional offender manager in discussion with probation and taking account of the volume of defendants through the courts.

Prisoners: Personal Records

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that medical, educational and other records follow prisoners immediately on transfer from one prison to another; and what the average length of time has been for a prisoner's records to be received by the prison of destination following transfer over the last 12 months. [178751]

Maria Eagle: The Discharge Prison Service Order sets out documents which must travel with a prisoner's escorting officer and these include: the prisoner's inmate core record, the custodial documents file and the prisoner's clinical record. The principle is that the transfer of documents is immediate.

In cases where a prisoner arrives at a new establishment without all the necessary documentation the reception staff would notify the appropriate department within the releasing prison, who will then forward that information.

The Prison Service Order Continuity of Healthcare for Prisoners (PSO 3050), contains guidance to improve the continuity of care received when a prisoner is transferred from one establishment to another, as well as at reception and on discharge. The prison clinical record is designed to be clear and legible, to identify medical history and pathways of care, and to improve communication between clinicians.

The Learning and Skills Council is currently developing its Learner Summary Record Database which will, for the first time, provide a central store of learner information that can be accessed by education providers delivering learning and skills in prisons irrespective of where the offender is serving their sentence. The development of the database and indeed the operation of it are designed to minimise the period of discontinuity in an individual offender's agreed learning programme if they are moved during their sentence period.

Prisons: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the effect on costs of the merger of the offices of the Regional Offender Manager and the Area Prison Manager in Wales is estimated to be. [184938]

Mr. Hanson: We are restructuring to achieve more with less resource at the regional tiers, and because we want a higher proportion of available resources to be spent on direct service delivery. The cost of the reorganisation will be contained within existing budgets. We are not yet in a position to say what the exact effect on costs in Wales will be, but we anticipate that there will be some efficiency-savings created from the removal of duplicated processes in areas such as planning, resource allocation and performance management.

Probation: Reorganisation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of the Probation Service in Wales of the structural changes to be implemented on 1 April. [184936]

Mr. Hanson: We do not anticipate that there will be any adverse effect on costs for Probation Boards or Probation Trusts in Wales as a result of the structural changes to be implemented on 1 April. The phased transition from probation boards to probation trusts will continue, with the SLAs and contracts being held by the Director of Offender Management.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to make available adequate resources for the Probation Service in Wales to implement the structural changes on 1 April. [184937]

Mr. Hanson: We do not anticipate any adverse resource implications for the Probation Service in Wales as a result of the structural changes taking place on 1 April. The phased transition from probation boards to probation trusts will continue, with the SLAs and contracts being held by the Director of Offender Management.

Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, on procurement, if he will list each division in his Department. [184054]

Maria Eagle: Divisions within the Ministry of Justice' Headquarters and it's agencies as at 31 December 2007 are in the following tables. The Prison Service is a next steps agency and as such does not have divisions.

Ministry of Justice' Headquarters Divisions

CFO Operations
Commercial Group
Communications Dir
Constitutional Directorate
Corporate Management Directorate
DG Administration
Disc Transition
Effective Trial Management Programme
Equality and Diversity Unit
Facilities Management
Finance and Control
DIV-HMICA
HR Business Partner
HR Corporate Policy
HR People Services
HR Specialist Services
I and B Operations
IT Business Partners
Judicial Policy Dir
Judicial Appointments Commission
Judicial Delivery Directorate
Judicial Group
Judicial Office of England and Wales
Judicial Studies Board
Legal Aid Strategy Directorate
Legal Directorate
Legal Services Directorate
OSPT Operations
Private Office and Central Strategic Unit
Projects and Programme
Resources
Service and Supplier Man
Strategy and Compliance
Strategy Directorate
Supreme Court Implementation Team

Ministry of Justices' Agencies: Her Majesty's Courts Service Divisions

Cust Serv and Comms
Accounts Collection Back Office
Area Enforcement Office

Avon and Somerset
Avon and Somerset Crn
Avon and Somerset Cty
Avon and Somerset Mag
Bedfordshire
Bedfordshire Crn
Bedfordshire Cty
Bedfordshire Mag
Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia Area Office
Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia Crn
Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia Cty
Black Country, Staffs and West Mercia Nag
Cambridgeshire Com
Cambridgeshire Crn
Cambridgeshire Cty
Cambridgeshire Mag
Central and South London Area Office
Central and South London Crn
Central and South London Mag
DIV-Cheshire
Cheshire and Merseyside Area Office
Cheshire Com
Cheshire Crn
Cheshire Cty
Cheshire Mag
Civil and Fam Civil Just
Civil and Fam Cust Serv
Civil and Fam Family Just
Civil and Fam Plan and Prog
Civil and Family London Area Office
Civil and Family London Cty
Civil and Family London Family Court Centres
Civil Appeals Office
Civil Justice Council
Cleveland
Cleveland Crn
Cleveland Cty
Cleveland Mag
Community Justice
Criminal Justice Delivery
Crime Support Regional Office London
Cumbria Area Office
Cumbria Crn
Cumbria Cty
Cumbria Mag
Devon and Cornwall
Devon and Cornwall Crn
Devon and Cornwall Cty
Devon and Cornwall Mag
Director of Perf
Dorset
Dorset Crn
Dorset Cty
Dorset Mag
Durham
Durham Crn
Durham Cty
Durham Mag
Enforcement Prog
Essex
Essex Crn
Essex Cty
Essex Mag
Family
Family Justice Council
Finance Support Regional Office London
Gloucestershire
Gloucestershire Crn
Gloucestershire Cty
Gloucestershire Mag
Greater Manchester Cty
Gtr Manchester
Gtr Manchester Crn
Gtr Manchester Mag
Hampshire and IOW
Hampshire and IOWCrn
Hampshire and IOW Cty
Hampshire and IOW Mag
Hertfordshire
Hertfordshire Crn
Hertfordshire Cty
Hertfordshire Mag
High Court Group HMCS CEO
HMCS Change Programme
HMCS Estates HQ
Humberside
Humberside Crn
Humberside Cty
Humberside Mag
Kent
Kent Crn
Kent Cty
Kent Mag
Lancashire
Lancashire Crn
Lancashire Cty
Lancashire Mag
Law Commission
Leics, Lincs and Northamptonshire Office
Leics, Lincs and Northamptonshire Crn
Leics, Lincs and Northamptonshire Cty
Leics, Lincs and Northamptonshire Mag
Merseyside Crn
Merseyside Cty
Merseyside Mag
Mid and West Wales Area Office
Mid and West Wales Crn
Mid and West Wales Cty
Mid and West Wales Mag
Midlands Confiscation Teams
Midlands Enforcement Teams
Midlands Enforcements - Director's Office
Midlands Fixed Penalty Office
Midlands Netting-off Teams
Midlands Reg Office
Midlands SCP Teams
Mids Jud Lodgings
MIS Perf Div

National Taxing Teams
NE Jud Lodgings
Norfolk
Norfolk Crn
Norfolk Cty
Norfolk Mag
North and West London Area Office
North and West London Crn
North and West London Mag
North East Reg Office
North Wales Area Office
North Wales Crn
North Wales Cty
North Wales Mag
North West Reg Office
North Yorkshire
North Yorkshire Crn
North Yorkshire Cty
North Yorkshire Mag
Northumbria
Northumbria Crn
Northumbria Cty
Northumbria Mag
Notts and Derbyshire Area Office
Notts and Derbyshire Crn
Notts and Derbyshire Cty
Notts and Derbyshire Mag
NW Jud Lodgings
Office Judge Advocate Gen
Pert Imp Div
Probate
RCJ Civil
RCJ Crown
Regional Office London
Resources Core Activities
Resources Project Activities
SE Jud Lodgings
SE Reg Office
South East Wales Area Office
South East Wales Crn
South East Wales Cty
South East Wales Mag
South Yorkshire
South Yorkshire Crn
South Yorkshire Cty
South Yorkshire Mag
Strategy and Business Support
Regional Office London
Suffolk
Suffolk Com
Suffolk Crn
Suffolk Cty
DIV-Suffolk Mag
Supreme Court Office
Surrey
Surrey Crn
Surrey Cty
Surrey Mag
Sussex
Sussex Crn
Sussex Cty
Sussex Family
Sussex Mag
SW Jud Lodgings
SW Reg Office
Thames Valley
Thames Valley Crn
Thames Valley Cty
Thames Valley Mag
W and C Jud Lodgings
Wales Regional Office
Warks and West Midlands Area Office
Warks and West Midlands Crn
Warks and West Midlands Cty
Warks and West Midlands Mag
West Yorkshire
West Yorkshire Crn
West Yorkshire Cty
West Yorkshire Mag
Wiltshire
Wiltshire Crn
Wiltshire Cty
Wiltshire Mag

Ministry of Justices' Agencies: Office of the Public Guardian Divisions

OPG Applications and Processing
OPG Contact Centre
OPG Court
OPG Finance and Resources
OPG Performance and Change
OPG Supervision

Ministry Of Justices' Agencies Scotland Office and Offices of Advocate General Divisions

Scotland Office

Ministry Of Justices' Agencies Wales Office Divisions

Wales Office

Ministry of Justices' Agencies Tribunals Service Divisions

AIT Ldn Central Hearing Centres
AIT Ldn Mid and West Hearing Centres
AIT Ops Support Centres
AIT Scot and North Hearing Centres
AIT Support Function
AS Birmingham Business Devel
AS Birmingham Region
AS Cardiff Region AS Flowers Hill Finance
AS Fox Court Business Devel
AS Glasgow Region
AS Leeds Region
AS Liverpool Region
AS Management
AS Newcastle Region
AS Nottingham Region
AS Sutton Region
Asylum Support Adjudicators
Care Standards
Deputy CE and design authority
EAT

ETS London and SE
ETS North, Wales and Scotland
ETS Support Services
ETS SW, Yorks and Mids
Gambling Appeals Trib
Gen Comms of Income Tax
HQ Operations AS
TG Criminal Injuries Tribs
TG Leicester Tribs
TG London Tribs
TG Mental Health Tribs
TG SEN and Disability Tribs
TG Tribunals Accom
Tribs Group Management
DIV-TS CEO and Secr
TS Customer Strategy
TS Customer Strategy and Communications
TS Development and Legislation
TS Estates
TS Finance and Resources
TS Performance and Planning
TS Prog and Projects Office
TS Snr Pres and Secr

Ministry Of Justices' Agencies National Offender Management Service Divisions

Altcourse Controllers Office - 0160 - 613001
Ashfield Controllers Office - 0160 - 613002
Assisted Prison Visits - 0160 - 605301
Associated Environment - 0164 - 671112
Basic Skills-0164-671211
Bronzefield Controllers Office - 0160 - 613003
Business Development Unit - 0164 -653000
C NOMIS Management and Support - 0160 - 604601
Chaplaincy (HO) - 0160-607100
Comm and Comps Unit - 0160 - 612000
Comm and Cont Prog Unit - 0160 - 603500
Community Integration - 0160 - 605200
Community Integration - 0160 - 605200
Community Reintegration - 0164 - 671212
Correctional Services Bill Team - 0160 - 601400
Criminal Justice Bill Team - 0160 - 601800
Criminal Law Policy Unit - 0160 - 601600
Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorders - 0160 1605000
Director of Probation's Office - 0164 - 650000
Directors Office NOMS Finance - 0160 - 610000
Directors Office NOMS Policy - 0160 - 601200
Directors Office NOMS Strategy - 0160 - 602400
Directors Office OIS - 0160 - 604200
Diversity - 0164-674400
Doncaster Controllers Office - 0160 - 613004
Dovegate Controllers Office - 0160 - 613005
Drugs and Alcohol - 0164 - 671320
DSU Drug Treat and Alcohol - 0160 - 607902
DSU Planning and Min Brief - 0160 - 607901
DSU Strat Dev and OGD Liaison - 0160 - 607900
DSU Supply Reduction - 0160 - 607903
Electronic Monitoring Team - 0164 - 671410
Enhanced Community Punishment - 0164 - 671210
EPDU Head of Unit - 0160 - 603300
EPDU Pop Man Unit - 0160 - 603303
EPDU Programme Planning - 0160 - 603305
EPDU Strategic Planning - 0160 - 603302
Forest Bank Controllers Office - 0160 - 613006
HMI Probation - 0160 - 615000
HR Management - 0164 - 651401
HR Management - 0164 - 663200
Independent Monitoring Board - 0160 - 606000
Intensive Supervision and Monitoring - 0164 - 671310
Lifer Review and Recall - 0160 - 605402
Lowdham Grange Controllers Office -0160 -613007
Management Information Team - 0164 - 674200
Manchester Monitors Office - 0160 - 613012
MAPPA Section - 0160 - 605404
Mental Health Unit - 0160 - 608000
Mubarek Inquiry Team (HO) - 0160 - 602900
Network Support Section - 0164 - 673400
New Services - 0160 - 604500
NOM OASys - 0160 - 607200
NOMS Chief Executive - 0160 - 600000
NOMS Programme Office - 0160 - 601100
NOMS Property Unit - 0160 - 603400
OASys - 0164-672200
OASYS (HO)-0160-604603
Off of Chief Psychologist-0160-608300
Offender Management Team - 0160 605100
Offender Management Team -0164-654000
Offender Policy and Rights - 0160 - 601300
Offending Behaviour Programmes - 0164 - 671140
Office of Contracted Prisons-0160-613000
OMNI-0160-604604
Open Government and Relocation Unit - 0160 - 603100
Parc Controllers Office - 0160 - 613008
PECS Crown House - 0160 - 603307
PECS Crown House - 0160 - 603307
Phoenix (HO) - 0160 - 604600
Planning and Finance Unit - 0160 - 603200
Prisoner Administration Group (NOM) (HO) - 0160 - 605900
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman-0160-616000
Probation ICT - 0160 - 604700
Programmes-0160- 604400
Prospects- 0164-666100
Protected Witness Section -0160-605406
Public Protection Team - 0160-605403
Public Protection Team -0164 - 6731100
Quality and Deliveries Team - 0164 - 674300
R and E: Comm Integration - 0160 - 602507
R and E: Courts and Sentencing - 0160 - 602510
R and E: Pub Eng and Drugs - 0160 602506
RDS NOMS Assistant Dir - 0160 - 602500
Rebalancing Sentences - 0160 - 601500
Regional Management Team 0164 - 674100
Release and Recall - 0160 - 605401
Research and Eval Prog Dir - 0160 - 602505
Risk of Harm Section - 01 60 - 605405
ROM East Midlands - 0160 - 618600
ROM East of England 0160 - 618900
ROM London - 0160 - 618000
ROM North East-0160-618300

ROM North West - 0160 - 618500
ROM South East - 0160 - 618100
South West - 0160 - 618800
ROM Wales-0160-618200
ROM West Midlands -0160 -618700
ROM Yorks and Humb 0160-618400
Rye Hill Controllers Office 0160 - 613010
S and A: Offender Management 0160 - 613010
Security Group (NOM) (HO) - 0160 - 613010
Senior Managers - 0160 - 614000
Sentencing Guidelines Council (incl. SAP) - 0160 - 609001
Sentencing Policy and Penalties Unit - p160 - 609000
(Service Management - 0160 -604300
Standards Unit-0160-602700
Stats and Analysis Prog Dir - 0160 - 602501
The Wolds Controllers Office-0160-613011
Voluntary Sector Unit-0160 - 605300
WPTRS-0160-601700
Youth Justice and Children - 0160 - 607000

Ministry of Justices' Agencies Office of Criminal Justice Reform Divisions

CJIT CJS Exchange Portal r2b Framework - 0115 -1115008
CJIT CJS Exchange Xhibit Portal r2a - 0115 -115001
ICJIT Deployment- 0115 -115017
CJIT ExISS-0115-115004
CJIT PMO-0115-115020
ICJITPMO-0115-120000
JCIT Portal and Progress -'0115 -115006
ICJIT Portfolio and Director- 0115 -119001
CJIT Procurement - 0115 -120005
CJIT Programme -0115-115000
CJIT Programme B - 0115 -115019
JCJIT Secretariat-0115-120002
JCJIT Service Delivery - 0115 -116001
CJIT Technology - 0115 -117001
OCJR - Better Trials - 0110 -102007
OCJR - Chief Executive - 0110 -100000
OCJR - Communications - 0110 -103006
OCJR - Community Justice Centres - 0110 -102004
OCJR - Director - SP - 0110-101000
OCJR-Director - DC - 0110 -103000
OCJR - Director-PP-0110-102000
OCJR - Evidence and Analysis - 0110 - 101005
OCJR Local Performance - 0110-103003
OCJR-PDU DCA -0110 -103005
OCJR - Portfolio and Govern - 0110 101003
OCJR-Project Delivery - 0110 -103001
CJR-Race Conf and Justice - 0110 - 102003
OCJR-Strategy and Resource - 0110 - 101001
OCJR-Victims and Witnesses - 0110 -102001

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175303]

Maria Eagle: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has had responsibility for the following regulators and inspectorates and their respective budgets received to date for 2007-08 are as follows:

Regulators

Claims Management Regulation—funded through collection of regulatory fees.

Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner—£0.1 million.

Office of the Information Commissioner—£5.0 million net (grant in aid) after setting off notification fees collected under the Data Protection Act 1998 against expenditure on Data Protection functions as Data Protection activities are self funded through collection of the fee which is forecast to be £10.5 million.

Inspectorates

	£ million
HMI Prisons	3.2
HMI Probation	3.5
HMI Court Administration	1.9

There has been no restructuring in these regulators or inspectorates since the formation of MOJ.

Details of regulators and inspectorates and their respective budgets prior to the formation of MOJ are as follows:

Regulators

The Claims Management Regulator was established in 2006-07 and was the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs prior to MOJ. The costs of setting up the regulator was £0.8 million and the estimated cost of regulation in 2007-08 is expected to be £1.7 million. The regulation fee income is expected to cover the regulatory costs in 2007-08. No restructuring has taken place since the formation of the Claims Management regime.

Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (OLSCC) was established in 2004 and was the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs prior to MOJ. In 2004-05, the Law Society provided to the DCA £0.8 million to meet the cost of setting up the OLSCC. In subsequent years, DCA has provided the budget to OLSCC and this was £0.05 million in 2005-06 and £0.1 million in 2006-07. No restructuring has taken place since the formation of the OLSCC.

From 1997 to June 2001, the Home Office sponsored the Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO). Following Machinery of Government changes in June 2001, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs sponsored the ICO. Budget details for ICO since 1997 are as follows:

£ million

Financial year	*Grant in aid received*	*Retained fee income*	*Total budget*
1997-98	3.7	—	3.7
1998-99	4.2	—	4.2
1999-2000	4.7	—	4.7
2000-01	5.3	—	5.3
2001-02	9.2	—	9.2

£ million

Financial year	Grant in aid received	Retained fee income	Total budget
2002-03	11.6	—	11.6
2003-04	11.2	—	11.2
2004-05	12.5	—	12.5
2005-06	5.1	9.4	14.5
2006-07	5.6	10.2	15.8

For 2005-06 to date, the grant in aid received only covers the Commissioner's Freedom of Information responsibilities. The Commissioner's data protection work is currently funded by notification fees, which the ICO retains with the agreement of HM Treasury.

No restructuring has taken place since the formation of the ICO.

Inspectorates

Prior to the formation of MOJ in May 2007, HMI Prisons and HMI Probation were the responsibility of the Home Secretary.

Since April 2005, HMI Court Administration (HMICA) was the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs prior to MOJ. Prior to this, HMICA's predecessor, the Magistrates Courts Service Inspectorate, was the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor. Budget details since 1997 are as follows:

Financial year	Total budget (£ million)
1997-98	1.5
1998-99	1.4
1999-2000	1.4
2000-01	1.6
2001-02	1.7
2002-03	1.9
2003-04	2.1
2004-05	2.0
2005-06	2.6
2006-07	2.4

Following Machinery of Government changes in April 2007, the CAFCASS Inspection team and a budget allocation of £0.485 million transferred from HMICA to Ofsted. The costs of restructuring HMICA as a result of this transfer were met from existing resources. There has not been any other restructuring within HMICA since its formation in April 2005.

Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures have been taken at Thorn Cross young offenders institute to focus inmates on *(a)* addressing offending behaviour, *(b)* developing self discipline, *(c)* contributing positively to the community and *(d)* developing vocational skills among (i) juvenile inmates and (ii) inmates above the age of 18. [184818]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In addressing offending behaviour Thorn Cross offers a number of offending behaviour courses for young adults, including Enhanced Thinking Skills and the Short Duration Drugs Programme.

(b) In developing self discipline Thorn Cross takes a structured approach to ensure good behaviour. Bad behaviour is minimal, and emphasis is given to taking individual responsibility. Credit is given to those demonstrating a responsible approach.

(c) In contributing positively to the community, there is significant investment at Thorn Cross. Offenders are engaged positively as part of a restorative justice approach. There is opportunity for involvement in various projects including work with the Warrington Disability Partnership, helping out with local groups as well as hosting an annual event for the WDP.

(d) To develop their vocational skills young people and young adults are given equal opportunity to better their life chances through participating in a full-time education and training programme. This allows them to address literacy, numeracy and life skills while also developing new vocational skills such as construction crafts (plastering, plumbing, painting and decorating and bricklaying). There are also opportunities for to train in motor mechanics, horticulture and catering.

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under 18 year old *(a)* remand and *(b)* detention and training order prisoners there were in each week since 26 January 2007. [1802[illegible]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the numbers of *(a)* remands and *(b)* detention and training order prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table:

2007	Remands	Detention and training orders
January	622	1,713
February	588	1,752
March	579	1,757
April	586	1,745
May	585	1,791
June	588	1,850
July	584	1,950
August	557	1,992
September	594	1,988
October	599	1,949
November	609	1,876

Note:
December figures not yet available, all figures as at end of month

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 6 February 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Carbon Offset Payment

Robert Key: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the carbon offset payment made by the House in respect of parliamentary air travel in 2006-07. [183957]

Nick Harvey: The Commission decided in June 2006 that the House should make payments to offset carbon emissions from air travel paid by the House or from Members' parliamentary allowances and booked using the parliamentary Travel Office. The House of Lords House Committee did likewise in July 2006. The House made its first carbon offset payment for 2006-07 in May 2007. The payment for 2006-07 was £26,025.50 and resulted from the emission of an estimated 2,626 tonnes of carbon from parliamentary air travel during the year. The offset payment has been made to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, which is overseen by DEFRA.

PRIME MINISTER

Pakistan: Human Rights

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to the President of Pakistan on that country's record on human rights and civil liberties at their meeting on 28 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [183787]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Musharraf. I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with the President on 28 January 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page14429.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Abuse

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many allegations of child abuse have been reported by *(a)* state maintained and *(b)* independent schools to (i) the police and (ii) social services in each of the last five years; [183585]

(2) what obligations state maintained schools have to report allegations of child abuse to *(a)* the police and *(b)* social services; and whether independent schools operate under the same obligations. [183586]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* The information requested about the number of allegations reported by maintained and independent schools to the police and social services is not held centrally.

The Government issued comprehensive guidance for schools and other education institutions, "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education", in November 2006 and this came into force in January 2007. This sets out the process for dealing with allegations that might indicate that someone is unsuitable to continue to work with children, because it is alleged that they have behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children. The guidance is clear that any allegations that fall within this definition must be taken seriously and should be examined objectively by someone independent of the school concerned: in the first instance this is typically the local authority designated officer who leads on dealing with allegations in that area. The guidance explains that the police must be consulted about any case in which a criminal offence may have been committed, and that a strategy discussion (which will involve children's social care) should take place when there is cause to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Sometimes allegations will be so serious as to require immediate intervention by children's social care or the police, prior to notifying the local authority designated officer.

This guidance is directed at both maintained and independent schools. For maintained schools it is underpinned by the duty on governing bodies in section 175 of the Education Act 2002. For independent schools the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils is underpinned by requirements in regulations made under section 157 of the Education Act 2002. The relevant regulations are the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to assist parents with the costs of child care. [184118]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* This Government recognise that child care costs are a serious matter for some families, which is why we are doing more than ever before to make good quality child care and early education accessible and affordable.

We are investing £3 billion per year to support free early education, so all three and four-year-olds, irrespective of the employment status of their parents, can benefit from 12.5 hours of free early years provision for 38 weeks per year. This increases to 15 hours by 2010 and will be delivered more flexibly to meet families' needs. In addition, we announced in the Children's Plan an additional £100 million to pilot a free entitlement for 20,000 of our most disadvantaged two-year-olds.

We provide substantial help (totalling over £3 million a day) through the tax credit system, in providing up to 80 per cent. of child care costs—helping nearly 430,000 families.

We have enabled employers to support working parents with their child care costs by offering tax and national insurance exemptions through salary sacrifice and child care vouchers for good quality formal child care. In addition, beginning in September 2008, £75 million has been made available over three years, so that 50,000 workless families can benefit from free child care, allowing parents to access training and move into work.

In London, additional support for child care is available to lower income parents, through the £33 million London Childcare Affordability Programme.

The recent DCSF "affordable child care" campaign aims to make parents much more aware of the range of provision in their areas and the support available to make child care more affordable.

Extended Schools

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made towards meeting its targets on *(a)* extended schools and *(b)* after-school childcare. [184925]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010, including providing access to child care and a range of activities, with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September.

At present, 9,393 schools are providing access to extended services which is well on the way to meeting the 2008 target.

Month to month variations can occur, resulting in figures going down as well as up, for example, as a result of local school reorganisations. There are many other schools which are already providing individual parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures.

There are no specific targets for local authorities on after-school child care. Local authorities are required to complete, by 31 March 2008, assessments of the sufficiency of child care in their areas in relation to children of all ages, covering supply of places, demand for places and gaps between the two.

Their assessments will provide the basis for their duty to secure sufficient child care for all working parents from 1 April 2008.

Extended Schools: Disadvantaged

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of extended school provision in deprived areas in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [184926]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Government have committed significant funding to support schools in establishing high quality and sustainable extended services. In the period 2006 to 2008 the Government provided £680 million to schools and local authorities. In 2008-09 to 2010-11 an additional £1.3 billion of funding will be made available. This is set out in the following table.

£ million

Extended schools total funding 2008 to 2011	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total CSR period*
Startup	165	172	71	408
Sustainability	40	100	155	295
Extended Schools Subsidy Scheme	8.5	40	217	265.5
Academic-Focused Study Support	0	84	83	167
Total Extended Schools Revenue	213.5	396	526	1,135.5
Total Extended Schools Capital	84	89	46	219
Total Extended Schools Revenue and Capital	297.5	485	572	1,354.5

The Department has announced the individual local authority allocations for the next three years for the start up, sustainability and capital funding streams outlined above. The methodology used for determining these allocations took levels of deprivation in each authority fully into account. Included in the £1.3 billion extended schools funding is £265.5 million to ensure that children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access high quality extended activities and are not prevented from doing so on grounds of cost.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many facilities for extended school provision in deprived areas in England were *(a)* set up and *(b)* closed in each of the last three years. [185102]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not collected centrally on the number of school facilities that have opened up or closed down for extended school provision.

TDA measures deprivation through the numbers of pupils entitled to free school meals. The following table provides figures on the number of schools providing access to the full core offer based on the level of deprivation.

Figures for 2007 and 2008 are provided as the target for schools providing access to the full core offer of extended services began in autumn 2006.

Deprivation (percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals)

Most deprived (over 25 per cent.)	*Number*	*Percentage*
As of 10 January 2007		
Schools providing access to core offer	1,409	37
National	5,352	24
As of 9 January 2008		
Schools providing access to core offer	2,435	26
National	4,655	21

Free School Meals

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the potential effects of universal free school meals on levels of healthy eating. [183816]

Kevin Brennan: This Department has not made an assessment.

Pre-School Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Government have spent on pre-school education in Coventry in the last five years. [184822]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: In 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 local authorities received funding to provide free nursery education for three and four-year-olds through the under-fives sub-block of their education formula spending (EFS). Coventry was funded the following amounts through the under-fives block of the EFS:

Coventry: education formula spend (under fives block)

	£ million
2003-04	20
2004-05	20
2005-06	22

EFS was not ring-fenced, therefore funding for education—including the notional under-fives funding—could be spent on other sectors and vice versa.

Since 2006-07 early years funding has been paid via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). We do not separately identify the amount of funding in the DSG for early years. Local authorities are responsible for determining how best to distribute their overall allocation.

Truancy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in year *(a)* 9, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 11 had a recorded unauthorised absence in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [184031]

Kevin Brennan: The first year for which information is available on absence rates by national curriculum year group is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. Data for 2006-07 are expected to be available at the end of February.

The available information is shown in the table:

All secondary schools[1][2]: Pupil absence for national curriculum year groups 9,10 and 11, 2005-06, England

		Percentage of half days missed[4]		
National curriculum year group	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[3]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
9	598,760	6.76	1.30	806
10	601,220	6.98	184	8.82
11	581,300	8.05	2.43	10.48

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes local authority maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

[4] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Young People: Disadvantaged

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department has incurred in countering social exclusion among young people *(a)* who have a disability, *(b)* who are lesbian, gay and bisexual, *(c)* from minority ethnic groups and *(d)* from rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [183174]

Kevin Brennan: As we showed in the recent Children's Plan, the policies and programmes we now have in place are designed to make England the best place in the world for children to grow up and meet their potential.

We have the following in place in order to ensure that all children and young people feel included in the life of their school and able to contribute positively to society:

Aiming High for Disabled Children will provide a total of £430 million to local authorities in new investment in disabled children's services during 2008-11 and additional funds to PCTs, to underpin delivery of a radical reform in services for disabled children and families. The Government want all disabled children to have the best start in life and the ongoing support that they and their families need to fulfil their potential;

Guidance to address bullying in schools "Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools" which includes specific guidance on tackling racist and homophobic bullying. We plan to add further guidance, in the spring, on how to tackle the bullying of disabled children. We have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the guidance is effectively influencing practice in schools. In the current year, we are spending £1.7 million on a range of anti-bullying initiatives and all of our programmes specifically look at how schools can prevent and tackle all forms of prejudice-driven bullying;

We are fully committed to narrowing and ultimately closing the gap in progress and attainment between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers. We have introduced targeted initiatives aimed at addressing specific areas of minority ethnic underachievement and to enhance mainstream and specialist provision in schools. We are confident that the targeted programmes for specific groups which are already under way, together with the mainstream programme of personalised learning, will enable us to make substantial further progress to address underachievement. Raising the academic achievement of minority ethnic background pupils is a key priority for the Department;

We have provided £2 million to help fund a Schools Linking Network. This enables schools in different contexts and locations work together to share practice on inclusive teaching and develop opportunities to promote understanding of the issues experienced by children in different parts of the country—urban, suburban and rural—so promoting social inclusion. This network has been developed in response to the findings of Sir Keith Ajegbo's review of Diversity and Citizenship in the Curriculum and the report from the Commission on Integration and Cohesion, chaired by Darra Singh; and

Through Aiming High for Young People, our 10-year strategy for positive activities, we have set out a range of commitments to improve young people's life chances through participation in positive leisure time activities and improved services. Supported by an investment of £679 million over the 2008-11 period, Aiming High focuses on helping all young people, but with extra support for those who need it most.

Young People: Speech Impaired

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is available through the Connexions Service to assist young people who stammer into employment; and what training is given to staff in the service on the best ways of assisting such young people. [184621]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* Through multi-agency working, Connexions provides integrated information, advice, guidance and access to personal development opportunities to help remove barriers to learning and progression and ensure young people make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life whatever their personal circumstances.

If a Connexions personal adviser (PA) considers that a young person may have a range of support needs, they would use the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to determine this. The CAF is a voluntary, holistic assessment of strengths and needs, which helps the PA to agree with the young person and their parent(s)/carer(s) what action needs to be taken and which agencies/practitioners should be involved.

All organisations delivering Connexions services are responsible for staff training which will include appropriate assessment training.

Youth Opportunity Fund

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* Youth Opportunity and *(b)* Youth Capital funds; and if he will make a statement. [183204]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF and YCF) were established in April 2006 as complementary, universal, funds operating under a single management framework.

The funds have demonstrated how innovative and creative young people can be when they are empowered to participate in decision making, delivering a wide range of high quality projects and activities that have resulted in over 500,000 young people benefiting from positive activities.

Interim findings from the independent evaluation of the Funds were published in July 2007: Research Report Number DCSF-RR004 is available on my Department's website.

The research found that the funds were meeting their objective to give young people a voice through consultation and control over resources. Local authorities had involved young people in the design and development of the funds, with young people involved as decision-makers. Projects funded have included, sporting, cultural and educational activities, improvements to local youth facilities and the purchase of specialist equipment, providing young people with opportunities they would not have otherwise had.

The second stage of the evaluation is currently underway and the final report will be available in summer 2008.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* first-class and *(b)* other flights he has taken since 28 June 2007; and on each occasion (i) how many staff travelled with him and (ii) what the cost of the travel was. [182882]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has offices in Northern Ireland and in London. Ministers and officials travel regularly between the two locations, according to business needs and security considerations.

Since 1999 the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which of his Department's agencies use the *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone codes for customer enquiries; how many 0845 or 0870 telephone codes each agency uses; and how much revenue was generated by each of these codes for each agency in each of the last five years. [184046]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Prison Service uses one 0845 number but the service provider, Cable and Wireless does not supply information on revenue generated by the 0845 number.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1472-73W, on elderly abuse, what the criteria are for dealing with assaults on the elderly by means of *(a)* non-sanction clearances and *(b)* charge/summons. [181772]

Paul Goggins: Crimes against the elderly are recorded in line with Home Office Counting Rules under the following definitions:

1. a crime (i.e. notifiable offence) has been committed and recorded; and
2. a suspect has been identified and has been made aware that they will be recorded as being responsible for the crime; and
3. there must be sufficient evidence to charge the suspect with the crime; and
4. that one of the agreed clearance methods detailed in the following table applies.

Agreed methods of clearance:

Sanctioned clearances

1. Taken into consideration
2. Charged
3. Summons issued
4. Adult caution
5. Adult informed warning
6. Juvenile informed warning
7. Juvenile restorative caution
8. Juvenile prosecutorial diversion

Non-sanctioned clearances

1. Under age
2. Complainant declined to prosecute
3. No prosecution directed
4. Offender died before proceedings

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184915]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs and Public Inquiries, can only provide spend on recruitment agencies from the financial year 1998-99. The figures shown in the following table include both the costs for appointing staff to the Department and the salaries paid to these temporary staff members.

Financial year	*Recruitment agencies costs (£)*
1998-99	51,349
1999-2000	37,212
2000-01	36,907
2001-02	39,678
2002-03	81,344
2003-04	99,883
2004-05	121,354
2005-06	136,304
2006-07	169,009

Recruitment agency staff are only employed when appropriately skilled permanent staff are not available to fill posts. Such appointments are closely monitored with regard to the continuing need.

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 181W, on intimidation, on what date the formal complaint of bullying was reported in his Department. [184840]

Mr. Woodward: Pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 181W, on the number of cases of bullying reported in the NIO in the last 12 months, the single formal complaint referred to was reported on 9 May 2007.

Official Engagements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days he spent in Northern Ireland on official business in each of the last 12 months. [182864]

Mr. Woodward: In addition to the time spent in Northern Ireland, I undertake NIO business in Parliament, in the Northern Ireland Office, London and elsewhere. As a member of the Cabinet I have additional duties including Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings and attending Parliament at Westminster.

Since my appointment on 29 June 2007 and until 31 January I have been in Northern Ireland on 59 days.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his official engagements were in December 2007. [182867]

Mr. Woodward: The disclosure of some of the information requested, including details of internal or interdepartmental meetings with Ministers or officials, would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

The information that can be disclosed is set out in the following table. In addition to those functions listed, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with political parties, local politicians, the Minister of State, internal and external stakeholders and his officials.

Week beginning	*Engagement*
3 December	Official opening of Government Building
10 December	Visit to Belfast Telegraph Meeting with Chris Sidoti Christmas reception at Hillsborough
17 December	Press conference on Omagh bombing Christmas reception at Hillsborough Meeting with Orange Order Meeting with chief constable and Sir Desmond Rea Meeting with the Quinn family

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in his Department in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184697]

Mr. Woodward: During 2007, there were no formal complaints of either sexual harassment or sexual discrimination reported in the NIO core Department.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 181W, regarding training provided for NIO staff on appropriate behaviour in the workplace. This training also deals with different types of discrimination, including on the basis of gender. In addition, in accordance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all personnel policies affecting staff are screened to ensure that they do not have an adverse effect on any of the nine groups specified under the legislation, which include gender.

WALES

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by his Department. [185408]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not own any databases. All databases used by my Department are maintained under Ministry of Justice contracts.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184343]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has lost no personal digital assistants or laptop computers. One mobile phone was reported missing in both 2006 and 2007.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184911]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to her staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184342]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Since June 2007 one laptop has been reported stolen from the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons. The laptop was used to update the office website and did not contain any personal data or other sensitive information.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Leader of the House if she will list the special advisers employed in her office since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184374]

Helen Goodman: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 768W, on elections, whether the performance indicators will be in addition to the 200 national performance indicators published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [184423]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission was given powers under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to set performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers, Returning Officers and Referendum Counting Officers across Great Britain. The Commission informs me that any standards would apply to these officers in their capacity as independent statutory office holders, rather than to their local authorities. They will therefore be separate from any performance indicators set for local authorities and local authority partnerships in England by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Elections: Scotland

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much was paid to Unlock Democracy for its work on the Scottish elections; and what tendering process was used to award the contract for such work. [184197]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that Unlock Democracy was paid £14,687 for the research which it carried out on the 2007 Scottish elections, and a report of their findings is available on the Commission's website.

The Commission used a single tender action, in line with its procurement procedures, to award the contract for this work.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Commonwealth

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many nationals of Commonwealth countries serving in the British armed forces have not been permitted to remain in the UK upon returning from active duty in theatre in the last 10 years. [181140]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Commonwealth nationals may apply for settlement under the immigration rules on the basis of completion of four years' service in HM armed forces. Prior to 25 October 2004, similar arrangements applied, though in the form of a concession operated outside the immigration rules. The record of decisions in settlement applications made under either of these arrangements, or in other applications for leave, does not specify whether the applicant has seen active duty, and the information requested could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens of other Commonwealth countries served in the UK armed forces in each year of the last 10 years, broken down by country of origin. [179777]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the number of other (non-UK) Commonwealth citizens (based on nationality) who have served in the UK armed forces[1, 2] by country of origin[3] at 1 April each year.

Country	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Australia	70	70	70	70	70	80	80	80	[4]80	[4]90
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]10	[4]10
Barbados	0	10	0	10	10	10	10	10	[4]10	[4]20
Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]10	[4]10
Brunei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	[4]20	[4]30
Canada	60	70	70	70	70	60	60	60	[4]60	[4]80
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Dominica	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	[4]10	[4]20
Fiji[3]	0	20	340	580	1,050	1,480	1,730	1,920	[4]2,000	[4]2,030
Gambia	0	0	0	10	20	40	60	70	[4]80	[4]120
Ghana	0	10	10	20	100	230	440	560	[4]660	[4]790
Grenada	0	0	0	10	10	30	50	50	[4]50	[4]60
Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	[4]20	[4]20
India	10	10	10	20	20	20	40	40	[4]40	[4]70
Kenya	0	10	10	20	20	40	70	90	[4]100	[4]140
Kiribati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Malawi	0	0	0	0	10	20	60	80	[4]100	[4]120
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	[4]10	[4]10
Malta	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	[4]10	[4]10
Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	10	20	20	[4]20	[4]30
Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
New Zealand	60	60	60	60	60	70	70	70	[4]70	[4]80
Nigeria	0	0	0	10	20	30	50	50	[4]70	[4]90
Pakistan[3]	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	[4]10	[4]10
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
St. Lucia	0	0	0	0	20	210	220	230	[4]220	[4]240
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	[4]10	[4]10
Sierra Leone	0	0	10	10	10	10	20	40	[4]40	[4]50
Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	0
South Africa	20	40	80	130	230	360	510	620	[4]720	[4]880
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	[4]10	[4]20
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]10	[4]10
Tanzania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—
Tonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	[4]10	[4]10
Trinidad and Tobago	10	10	10	20	30	50	60	70	[4]70	[4]100
Uganda	0	0	0	0	0	10	20	30	[4]40	[4]60
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	0	180	170	280	290	280	[4]280	[4]460

Country	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West Indies	30	30	40	80	240	620	910	970	[4]990	[4]950
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	[4]20	[4]20
Zimbabwe[1]	30	50	60	90	200	400	530	560	[4]570	[4]600
Other non-UK Commonwealth	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	10	[4]20	[4]—
UK armed forces[2]	360	450	820	1,430	2,410	4,150	5,420	6,040	[4]6,450	[4]7,240

"0" = zero or rounded to zero. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[1] Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full-time Reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

[2] Information by country of origin for Navy personnel is only available post Joint Personal Administration implementation (October 2006 for Navy). Information by country of origin for RAF personnel pre-Joint Personnel Administration (April 2006 for RAF) can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Information in the table is for Army personnel only in 1998 to 2005; for Army and RAF personnel in 2006 and for all services in 2007. All 2006 and 2007 information is marked as provisional due to the ongoing validation of Army Joint Personnel Administration data.

[3] Figures include personnel from Fiji and Pakistan which were suspended from the Commonwealth in December 2006 and November 2007 respectively and Zimbabwe which withdrew from the Commonwealth in December 2003.

[4] Provisional.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK citizens discharged from the armed forces did not return to their country of origin in each year for which figures are available *(a)* having completed their engagement, *(b)* before completing their engagement and *(c)* before completing basic training. [180045]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available and it cannot be collated retrospectively.

Since embarkation checks were dismantled in 1994, there has been no means of ascertaining whether non-UK citizens, including those discharged from the armed forces, have or have not returned to their country of origin.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel awarded British Military Parachute Wings *(a)* received and *(b)* did not receive parachute pay in each year since 1997. [181207]

Derek Twigg: The information on how many armed forces personnel awarded British Military Parachute Wings received or did not receive parachute pay each year since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chelsea Barracks: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much from the sale of Chelsea Barracks will be *(a)* available to his Department and *(b)* returned to HM Treasury; and what the payment schedule is for the sale of Chelsea Barracks. [184828]

Derek Twigg: The sale was completed on 31 January and HM Treasury has agreed that the Ministry of Defence will retain the full benefit of the total consideration of £959 million The first two payments have been received totalling £383.6 million with the balance to be paid as follows:

	£ million
2 February 2009	191.8
1 February 2010	191.8
31 January 2011	191.8

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182716]

Derek Twigg: Press and communications officers are not a separately identifiable employee group within MOD and are subject to the same performance bonus arrangements (including bonus values) as all MOD broader banded civilian employees.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she was informed of the Non-Stated Preference peer review findings in relation to the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England report; and if she will make a statement. [179962]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Officials informed the Secretary of State of the findings of the non-stated preference peer review group at a meeting on 30 October, the day of their receipt in the Department.

The Secretary of State announced the results of the study on 2 November.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the project steering group were informed that the ANCON model would not be used for modelling work undertaken as part of the attitudes to noise from aviation sources in England study (ANASE); which organisations (i) tendered for the ANASE contract, (ii) are represented on the ANASE project board and (iii) peer reviewed the (A) stated preference aspect and (B) other aspects of the study; and if she will make a statement. [183606]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The information is as follows:

(i) The specification for the project did not specify whether the UK Aircraft Noise Contour Model (ANCON) or the U.S FAA's Integrated Noise Model (INM) should be used by the successful contractor, as both models are used in the UK for noise modelling purposes. In July 2002 MVA informed the Department that their preference was to use the INM model because it is publicly available at low cost and meets all the technical requirements of the study. MVA Information Note No. 14 "Project Team Answers to SASIG Questions" dated 15 May 2006—which was circulated to steering group members on 25 May 2006 explained that INM had been used for modelling.

(ii) The following organisations bid for the ANASE contract:

Civil Aviation Authority, ITS/Eurocontrol, Peter Davidson Consultancy, MVA Consultancy, Rand Europe, and Steer Davies Gleave.

(iii) The following organisations were represented on the ANASE steering Group:

Department for Transport;

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

Aviation Environment Federation;

Airport Operators Association;

British Air Transport Association;

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association;

Professor Graham Loomes (School of Economic and Social Studies, University of East Anglia)

(iv) The Stated Preference elements of the study were peer reviewed by Professor Ian Bateman (School of Environmental Science, University of East Anglia), Dr. Brett Day (University of East Anglia) and Professor Mark Wardman (Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds).

(v) The Non Stated Preference elements of the Study were peer reviewed by Mr. Peter Havelock (Environmental Research and Consultancy Department, Civil Aviation Authority) and Mr. Stephen Turner (Acoustics and Vibration Group, Bureau Veritas).

British Railways Board

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will wind up the British Rail Board (Residuary) and transfer its assets to Network Rail. [182541]

Mr. Tom Harris: No, that would not be appropriate. BRB (Residuary) Ltd. is responsible for the management of the residual liabilities and assets of the British Railways Board. These include the management and administration of employee health claims from former employees as well as a property portfolio. Proceeds from its disposals of land are available to the department for funding the current railway.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what incentives exist to encourage the British Rail Board (Residuary) speedily to dispose of its assets. [182542]

Mr. Tom Harris: BRB (Residuary) Ltd. manages the majority of the remaining property rights and liabilities of the British Railways Board. It has been set an objective to dispose of its assets as quickly as possible consistent with the achievement of value for money in line with the Guidance that I issued to the company and announced to Parliament on 26 July 2007. The majority of sites are being sold by auction or tender over the next 15 months to achieve demanding sales target. A small minority of sites are subject to sale agreements or developments involving third parties which can take longer in order to achieve full market value.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value is of all contracts placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by her Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the value and the nature of work undertaken by the above companies for each complete financial year since 2004-05 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers her Department employed in each year since establishment. [182506]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was established in May 2002. Information from that date that is readily available both for the Department DfT(central) and for its agencies is in the table. Some data are not available without disproportionate cost.

(a) Press Officers

The full-time equivalent (FTE) number employed:

	DfT(c)	*Agencies*
2002-03 +	[1]12.7	[1]18.0
2003-04	[1]13.8	[1]18.0
2004-05	[1]13.8	[1]19.5
2005-06	[1]14.2	[1]25.0
October 2006	14.2	25.0
1 July 2007	14.0	22.0
1 February 2008	14.0	25.7

Notes:

1. Actuals except [1] which are annual average FTE.

2. + covering the 10 month period from the creation of the Department in May 2002.

(b) Communications officers

The Department does not have a 'communication officer' grade. Figures shown are for communication specialists engaged in a range of comms activities, and excluding press officers. The full-time equivalent (FTE) number employed as at:

	DfT(c)	*Agencies*
Prior to October 2006	Comparable data is not available without disproportionate cost	
October 2006	39.3	73.5
1 July 2007	35.0	n/a
1 February 2008	43.9	66.4

DfT(c) figures are only for relevant staff working in the Department's Communication Directorate. DfT(c) also employs other communications specialists but numbers are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The 'White Book' of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and is updated twice yearly.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to conduct a public consultation on proposals to revise legislation on drinking and driving. [184401]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: As explained in last year's report of the second review of the Road Safety Strategy, we are considering what further measures might be taken to make it easier for the police to enforce drink drive laws, and intend to undertake public consultation on our proposals later this year.

Heathrow Airport: Nature Conservation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to Annex B, paragraph 2.34 of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document, which sites of significant importance for nature conservation have been identified as indirectly negatively affected in terms of biodiversity by the proposals outlined in the consultation paper; and if she will make a statement. [179436]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 January 2008]*: The appraisal of the options reported in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document does not identify specific sites that might be indirectly affected in terms of biodiversity. Paragraph 2.34 of the consultation document instead refers to the possibility that such sites in general could be adversely affected, primarily by air quality changes.

M1: Tree Felling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason substantial tree-felling is taking place alongside the southbound carriageway of the M1 motorway south of junction 27; and if she will make a statement. [184630]

Mr. Tom Harris: The tree felling that is taking place southbound of junction 27 is to enable the motorway carriageways to be widened from dual three to dual four lanes as part of the widening scheme between junctions 25 and 28 of the M1. The trees and vegetation are only being removed within the highway boundary and only where necessary for the works.

Once the scheme is in its later stages, extensive replanting, in line with landscape designs presented in the Environmental Statement, will be undertaken. This will include 135,000 trees and shrubs within the highway boundary.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage change from a 2007 baseline she has projected for *(a)* rail passenger and *(b)* freight mileage by (i) 2009, (ii) 2014, (iii) 2019 and (iv) 2024. [184193]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The percentage change relative to 2007-08 for rail passenger miles on franchised services in England and Wales is as follows:

	Percentage growth
2009-10	6
2014-15	21
2019-20	34
2024-25	40

Rail freight is a commercial business between the freight operators and Network Rail. The Department for Transport does not make forecasts of this traffic.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 48W, on roads: accidents, what proportion of deaths on roads occurred on *(a)* motorways, *(b)* trunk roads, *(c)* B roads and *(d)* other roads in the last 10 years. [184941]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proportion of fatalities in reported road accidents, in *(a)* St. Ives *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* Great Britain by road type are given in the following tables.

(a) St. Ives constituency[1]

				Percentage of fatalities
	Motorways	*A roads*	*B roads*	*Other roads*
1997	0	40	10	50
1998	0	75	0	25
1999	0	75	25	0
2000	0	33	50	17
2001	0	88	13	0
2002	0	75	13	13
2003	0	80	20	0
2004	0	0	67	33
2005	0	57	14	29
2006	0	45	27	27

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

(b) Cornwall

			Percentage of fatalities	
	Motorways	*A roads*	*B roads*	*Other roads*
1997	0	56	11	33
1998	0	62	22	16
1999	0	63	13	23
2000	0	57	26	17
2001	0	70	13	18
2002	0	70	15	15
2003	0	73	13	13
2004	0	59	14	27
2005	0	60	11	29
2006	0	58	20	22

(c) Great Britain

			Percentage of fatalities	
	Motorways	*A roads*	*B roads*	*Other roads*
1997	5	59	13	22
1998	5	58	13	24
1999	6	58	13	24
2000	6	58	14	23
2001	6	58	14	22
2002	7	58	13	22
2003	6	58	14	22
2004	5	57	14	24
2005	6	56	14	24
2006	6	57	13	24

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 48W, on Roads: Accidents, what assessment she had made of the causes of the reduction of the number of deaths from road accidents in the last 10 years. [184942]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An analysis of the key causes of road collisions, including those which were fatal, can be found in the second three-year review of the Government's road safety strategy, which is available from our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/
strategytargetsperformance/2ndreview/screen

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new road have been built in each year since 1997. [180280]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The following table shows the total miles of trunk road and motorway built in each year from 1997 to December 2007.

Calendar year	*Scheme miles*
1997	75.1
1998	51.5
1999	28.9
2000	23
2001	2.2
2002	19.1
2003	85
2004	31.3
2005	21.5
2006	38.6
2007	28.82
Total	405

These figures are currently being reviewed.

Data on lengths of non-trunk roads constructed are not collected centrally and an overall figure are not therefore available.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average weight of a two-car train was in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2006. [184190]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Department for Transport does not hold information in the form requested. However, the following tables compare the weight of representative two-car diesel and electric multiple unit trains built during the period specified.

Build year	*Class of DMU*	*Weight of two-car units (tonnes)*
1985	Class 156	74
1997	Class 170	90
2005	Class 171	92

Build year	*Class of EMU*	*Weight of two-car units (tonnes)*
1991	Class 456	72
1995	Class 466	71

In the period covered by this question, there has been a general increase in average train weight driven by improvements in crashworthiness and the introduction of features such as power doors, air conditioning and double glazing.

A degree of caution is needed, however, in comparing train weights as different trains will have different carrying capacities and performance characteristics (such as top speed and acceleration).

The technical specification recently published by DfT for the Intercity Express high speed train, has a strong emphasis on reducing weight through the application of industry best practice and improvements in track quality.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Department took the decision that the ministerial residence occupied by Lord Malloch Brown was to be refurbished and redecorated when the right hon. Member for Kingston-upon-Hull (Mr. Prescott) vacated the flat in Admiralty House. [178881]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office authorised the minor works undertaken.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date Lord Malloch Brown first occupied his official ministerial residence in Admiralty House. [178887]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 313W.

Afghanistan: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make on the arrest and sentencing to death of Afghan resident Sayed Pervez Kambaksh. [184798]

Dr. Howells: The Government were concerned to hear about the case of Sayed Pervez Kambaksh. We are opposed to the death penalty. We fully support the right to freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. We are pursuing the matter in Afghanistan through the EU and UN. The office of the UN special representative in Afghanistan has already called publicly for a review of the case.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Afghanistan on the death sentence imposed on Sayed Pervez Kambaksh; and if he will make a statement. [184803]

Dr. Howells: The Government were concerned to hear about the case of Sayed Pervez Kambaksh. We are opposed to the death penalty. We fully support the right to freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. We are pursuing the matter in Afghanistan through the EU and UN. The office of the UN Special Representative in Afghanistan has already called publicly for a review of the case.

Antarctic: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research activity the UK is conducting in the Antarctic; what the objectives of such research are; what reports he has received of research activities by other states in the Antarctic; and if he will make a statement. [184981]

Meg Munn: The UK is committed to maintaining its leading role in Antarctic science and research, including in areas such as climate change, sea level rise and the sustainable use of natural resources. The contribution of UK scientists, especially those at the British Antarctic Survey, a research institute of the Natural Environment Research Council, not only helps increase our understanding of the complex natural systems that are vital to the health of the planet, but also underpins the UK's high profile within the Antarctic Treaty System. UK scientists are also playing a full and active role in the International Polar Year 2007-09. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, based at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, is responsible for coordinating international research programmes in Antarctica. Details of other states' research activities are communicated using a combination of reports from national Antarctic research programmes, science conferences and published scientific journals and publications.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on oil exploration and research in the Antarctic by other countries; and if he will make a statement. [184986]

Meg Munn: We have received no such reports on oil research and exploration in the Antarctic. The UK is fully committed to upholding the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty including the Protocol on Environmental Protection and its clear prohibition on any activity related to mineral resources, other than scientific research.

Aral Sea

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the impact on the Aral sea of cotton farm irrigation in Uzbekistan, with particular reference to the effect on the population of Karakalpakstan. [183750]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Aral sea has been recognised as the world's worst artificial ecological and environmental disaster. From 1960 to 2000, it lost 75 per cent. of its volume and 50 per cent. of its surface area. Its degradation has been ruinous to the people, plant and animal life in the region, including Karakalpakstan. The degradation has been caused primarily by excessive use, dating back to Soviet times, of the waters of the two main rivers flowing into it, the Syr-Daria and Amu-Daria, to irrigate the cotton fields in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. None of the 20 species of fish once found in the Aral survived. However, a dam has now been built between the northern and southern part of the Aral sea with international assistance from the World Bank. Since completion in 2005, the World Bank reports that the water level in the northern part of the sea has gradually risen and, between 2003 and 2006, increased by 13 per cent. in surface area (from 2,850 km square to 3,250 km square).

A spillway passing excess water from the northern to the southern part of the Aral sea has been operational since February 2006 and the water level in the southern part is also now likely to increase in the future, though probably only marginally. Salinity levels of both parts of the sea have been reduced over the last two years and several freshwater fish have been returned to the sea. As a result, fish harvests have considerably increased during the past two years.

According to the World Bank, the next step is to improve the irrigation efficiency of the land in the Kazakh part of the Aral sea basin. Additional waterworks are also planned to restore wetlands and fishing lakes in the delta region. A World Bank project to this end began in 2007.

Details of the World Bank project can be found at:

http://www.worldbank.org.kz/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=73230&theSitePK=361869&menuPK=361901&Projectid=P046045

The Aral sea is an international problem which will require an international solution. In its "Strategy for Central Asia", which will be adopted at the European Council on 21-22 June, the EU commits itself, inter alia to support the implementation of the EU Water Initiative for safe water supply and integrated water resources management; promotion of transboundary river basin management and regional co-operation and support the integrated management of surface and underground transboundary water resources, including the introduction of techniques for more efficient water use particularly in irrigation.

British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect sea birds in the overseas territories. [184903]

Meg Munn: The Government have provided over £820,000 since 2004 for projects and activities for the protection of seabirds in the overseas territories. Projects include habitat restoration, the production of management plans to guard against the negative impact of human activity on the environment and education projects on Ascension Island and in the Falkland Islands to inform school children about the local environment. The Government have also agreed to fund an agreement for the conservation of Albatross and Petrels co-ordinator to assist territories in the South Atlantic to monitor and report on seabird populations.

Brunei: Gurkhas

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Brunei on increasing the provision of married quarters for Royal Ghurkha Rifles personnel stationed in Brunei. [185211]

Meg Munn: We hold regular bilateral meetings with the Government of Brunei, at which accommodation, including service family accommodation for the Brunei garrison is discussed. A multi-million pound build programme for the garrison is in progress and is already delivering new housing for the battalion and its families.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much revenue was generated by each *(a)* 0845 and *(b)* 0870 telephone code used by his Department's agencies for customer enquiry lines in each of the last five years. [183952]

Meg Munn: The 0845/0870 numbers, in use by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, are provided free of charge and for our convenience by the service provider.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office generates no revenue from their use.

EU Reform: Treaties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on plans for the forthcoming Irish referendum on the EU Constitution; and if he will make a statement. [178896]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with his Irish counterpart on a variety of issues. He has received no representations on the forthcoming Irish referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon.

Falkland Islands: Fisheries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures the Government are taking to protect the fisheries around the Falkland Islands from unauthorised fishing by foreign vessels. [184982]

Meg Munn: The Falkland Islands Government exercise responsibility for protecting fisheries around the Falkland Islands from unauthorised fishing. In order to achieve this task the Falkland Islands Government have two maritime surveillance aircraft, a chartered fisheries protection vessel and a satellite based vessel monitoring system. Additionally, a small number of fisheries observers are deployed on the commercial fleet. Their primary role is the collection of scientific data but they also monitor compliance with regulations.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what forecasts have been made of the future level of fish stocks in the Falkland Islands waters. [184983]

Meg Munn: Since the introduction of the first fisheries conservation zone around the Falkland Islands in 1986 and the beginning of the regulated fishery, fin fish stocks in the Falkland Islands have been relatively stable. Squid stocks are less stable due to their short life cycle (one-year) and dependence on favourable environmental conditions. After a period of decline, stocks of the main squid species now appear to have returned to normal levels. Apart from the noted volatility of squid stocks, we expect conservation action to generally maintain stock levels and catches at current levels.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Argentine Government on the issuing of licences to fish in Falkland Islands waters. [184[illegible]7]

Meg Munn: We have had no recent discussions with the Argentine Government on the issue of licences to fish in Falkland Islands waters. The Falkland Islands Government has responsibility for the licensing of fishing in its waters, in line with international best practice. We do participate in fisheries discussions with Argentina through the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. We last met the Argentine Government to discuss the mandate of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission in March 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations govern the activity of fishing vessels in Falkland Islands waters. [184988]

Meg Munn: The Falkland Islands Government license commercial fishing in Falkland Islands waters in line with their legislation on conservation and management of fish stocks. The legal and regulatory framework in which the Falkland Islands' fishery operates has been modernised and re-stated recently with the enactment of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005. These regulations are similar to those used in other fisheries around the world where international best practice is adhered to.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much revenue the issuing of fishing licences to foreign vessels generated for the Falkland Islands in each year for which figures are available. [185022]

Meg Munn: The issuing of fishing licences by the Falkland Islands Government has generated the following amounts for each of the calendar years since 1989 (the earliest year for which figures are available):

	Income generated from fishing licences (£)
1989	29,001,223
1990	27,942,586
1991	26,360,901
1992	26,513,702
1993	21,073,205
1994	26,690,547
1995	20,348,929
1996	21,977,242
1997	21,296,309
1998	19,577,548
1999	20,182,480
2000	24,780,401
2001	27,685,053
2002	26,552,083
2003	20,466,419
2004	11,912,319
2005	10,552,357
2006	14,401,541

Figures for income generated by the sale of licences specifically to foreign vessels is only available for the last three years. These amounts are:

	Income generated from fishing licences to foreign vessels (£)
2005	5,268,712
2006	7,655,134
2007	8,788,340

The Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department supplied these figures. The responsibility for the sale of fishing licences lies with the Falkland Islands Government.

Falkland Islands: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many species of endangered *(a)* animals and *(b)* birds there are in the Falkland Islands; and what estimate he has made of the numbers of each. [184985]

Meg Munn: There are four species of animals and two species of birds found in the Falkland Islands and their waters that are listed as endangered in the 2007 IUCN (the World Conservation Union) Redlist. The animals listed are the Grey Skate, Blue Whale, Fin Whale and Sei Whale. The birds are the Northern Royal Albatross and Black-browed Albatross. The Falklands Island Government are responsible for the protection of endangered species in the Falkland Islands. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not carried out research to estimate the numbers of those endangered animals or birds in the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Islands: Seals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the populations of seals and sealions in the Falkland Islands and its waters; and what steps the Government is taking to protect them. [184984]

Meg Munn: In 2003, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided 20,000 to Falklands Conservation, an environmental non-governmental organisation, to carry out a sea-lion census. The Sea Mammal Research Unit of the University of St. Andrews, a specialist marine unit with the relevant marine experience, carried out the census on behalf of Falklands Conservation. Its report estimated there to be 7,047 sea-lions, including 2,747 pups. The census did not include seals, for which there are no estimates available. No further census of sea-lions or seals has taken place since 2003. The responsibility for the protection of seals and sea-lions in the Falkland Islands lies with the Falkland Islands Government. Seals and sea-lions are protected by Falkland Islands legislation.

Foreigners: Honours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* substantive and *(b)* honorary awards of each class of honour have been made to foreign nationals in each of the last five years. [185208]

Meg Munn: The total number of substantive awards to non-British nationals on the diplomatic service and overseas honours list (i.e. citizens of Her Majesty the Queen's realms and overseas territories) is as follows:

	MBE[1]	*OBE*[2]	*CBE*[3]	*CMG*[4]	*DBE*[5]	*Knight Bachelor*	*Colonial Police Medal*	*Total*
New year 2003	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	8
Birthday 2003	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	7

	MBE[1]	OBE[2]	CBE[3]	CMG[4]	DBE[5]	Knight Bachelor	Colonial Police Medal	Total
New year 2004	7	3	2	1	—	—	—	13
Birthday 2004	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	7
New year 2005	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	6
Birthday 2005	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	7
New year 2006	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	8
Birthday 2006	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	4
New year 2007	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	7
Birthday 2007	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	8
New year 2008	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

[1] Member of the Order of the British Empire
[2] Order of the British Empire
[3] CBE - Commander of the Order of the British Empire
[4] Companion (of the Order Of) St Michael and St George
[5] DBE - Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire

Details of those receiving honorary awards from 2000 to 2006 have been placed in the Library of the House. From the beginning of 2007, the list of those receiving honorary awards appears on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1166536150628.

Single European Act

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what passerelle clauses were *(a)* introduced by and *(b)* established in legislation made under the Single European Act. [177188]

David Miliband: The Single European Act introduced one amending provision ('passerelle'). This was article 130S, relating to environment policy. It allowed the Council to define, by unanimity, environment policy issues on which decisions could be taken by qualified majority. The Single European Act was given effect in UK law by the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1986.

United Nations: Sanctions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on United Nations: Sanctions, what representations have been made to his Department on the appropriateness and equity of the targeting of UN sanctions under chapter VII of the UN Charter on persons within the UK; whether there are reasonable opportunities for the subjects of sanctions to appeal; and if he will make a statement. [184944]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received representations from legal representatives of designated individuals seeking assistance in challenging their listing by the UN Security Council or requesting exemptions to meet basic or extraordinary expenses. Important reforms have been made in recent years to the Security Council's procedures for considering such requests, including the establishment of a focal point for receiving delisting petitions by UN Security Council resolution 1730 (2006). This has increased the opportunities for designated individuals to make their views known to the Security Council. The Government will continue to give representations on such matters due consideration.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people within the UK have been the subject of sanctions *(a)* under chapter VII of the UN Charter imposed by the United Nations Security Council and *(b)* by European Union institutions and agencies since 1999; how many of these have subsequently been removed from such lists; and what the average duration of such sanctions has been in the last 10 years. [184943]

Dr. Howells: There are currently 16 UK residents subject to sanctions by the UN Security Council and one UK resident subject to sanctions by the European Union. A further UK resident was removed from the UN Security Council list and another from the European Union list in 2005. The Government have not collated information on the average length of time spent by individuals on either list as to collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been given by the Arts Council England to amateur operatic societies in each of the last five years. [174130]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council has provided amateur operatic societies with the following support:

2003-04: £13,088

2004-05: £5,000

2005-06: £8,735

2006-07: £22,414

and 2007-08 (up to November 2007) £20,500

In addition, the following support has been provided to more general activities such as festivals and community centres that include an element of operatic activity:

2003-04: £0

2004-05: £9,936

2005-06: £19,288

2006-07: £7,750

and 2007-08 (up to November 2007) £47,260

I met the hon. Member with a delegation and suggested ways to persue other funding options.

Blue Plaques

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* funding and *(b)* advice and assistance his Department makes available to encourage and facilitate the installation of blue plaques. [184629]

Margaret Hodge: From its grant in aid, English Heritage has allocated a budget of £248,594 to its Blue Plaques team for 2007-08. English Heritage does not install blue plaques outside London or provide funding for others to do so. It actively offers advice to those who run, or wish to set up, local schemes of this type.

English Heritage inherited the blue plaques scheme in 1986 when the Greater London council was abolished. It opened up the Scheme in April 1999 on a pilot basis to cities and areas around the country. After a period of review, it was decided in early 2007 that this scheme should be re-focused solely on London. This decision was based on a number of factors, including the low number of plaques which English Heritage could realistically expect to install resulting in minimal impact for considerable investment, and feedback from a number of local authorities and other groups who suggested these plaques would not be welcome or appropriate in their areas, partly due to the existence of an increasing number of flourishing local schemes.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided in 2007 for the installation of blue plaques *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside London; and to which organisations. [182707]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: From its grant in aid, English Heritage has allocated a budget of £248,594 to its blue plaques team for 2007-08. English Heritage does not install blue plaques outside London or provide funding for others to do so. It actively offers advice to those who run, or wish to set up, local schemes of this type.

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British Library

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the British Library on the safeguarding and monitoring of books and other materials in its care. [184136]

Margaret Hodge: Most recently, in the context of the comprehensive spending review, both I and my right hon Friend the Secretary of State had discussions with the British Library about the financial settlement required to ensure that the Library is able to care for their collections.

Their excellent settlement includes significant capital funding to build new, high-specification storage for the national newspaper collection, demonstrating Government's commitment to safeguarding the British Library's collections for future generations of researchers.

Capita

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, to the hon. Member for Southend, West, *Official Report*, columns 2169-70W, on Capita, what services were received from Capita in each of the last three financial years for the payments listed. [183402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In my reply to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2169-70W, there was an error in the total amount paid in 2007-08. The correct amount should be £489,295 and not £470,913.

The services received from Capita in each of the last three financial years were as follows:

2005-06

£84,859 for funds transfer through Capita which is paid to individuals who retire/leave the Department early (i.e. lump sum pension payments). The contract is set up by the Cabinet Office and the amount shown is not actually paid to Capita, they are simply used as a funding vehicle.

£5,833 for the provision of occupational health administration. Contract was set up by the Cabinet Office.

£5,113 for the provision of learning and development course.

£7,050 for the provision of recruitment services exercise.

2006-07

£383,431 for funds transfer through Capita which is paid to individuals who retire/leave the Department early (i.e. lump sum pension payments). The contract is set up by the Cabinet Office and the amount shown is not actually paid to Capita, they are simply used as a funding vehicle.

£12,078 for the provision of occupational health administration. Contract was set up by the Cabinet Office.

£32,431 for the provision of recruitment services.

£524 for the provision of training and development services

2007-08

£458,519 for funds transfer through Capita which is paid to individuals who retire/leave the Department early (i.e. lump sum pension payments). The contract is set up by the Cabinet Office and the amount shown is not actually paid to Capita, they are simply used as a funding vehicle.

£8,842 for the provision of occupational health administration. Contract was set up by the Cabinet Office.

£1,627 for the provision of learning and development course.

£20,307 for the provision of travel services for flights.

Casinos

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many casinos there were in the UK in each year since 1997. [183325]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The list shows the number of casinos operating in Great Britain as at 31 March for each year since 1996-97 and at the latest available date.

To 31 March	*Number of casinos operating*
1997	116
1998	116
1999	116
2000	118
2001	118
2002	122
2003	126
2004	131
2005	138
2006	140
2007	138
29 January 2008	144

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requirements his Department and its agency place on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176627]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department requires an annual audit of IT equipment by its outsourced IT providers. This is done on DCMS premises.

Personal data are audited on a monthly basis by our payroll contractors.

Secure point to point courier services are used to transfer data between DCMS and its service suppliers. The suppliers are contractually bound to keep data safe and secure, and limit access to personal data while in their custody.

The Royal Parks Agency does not have formal procedures but exercise caution when sharing sensitive data.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Copeland

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1809W, on Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Copeland, when the detailed evaluation of the programme to switch off analogue television services in the Copeland area will be completed; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [184472]

Andy Burnham: Digital UK are conducting a rigorous evaluation of the switchover process in Copeland which they plan to publish around the end of March.

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been ringfenced for promoting tourism in the lead up to the 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [181984]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: Following the publication of the DCMS-led Tourism Strategy for 2012 last September, VisitBritain is currently leading a Strategic Review of the £350 million spent by public bodies to support tourism.

The Review will consider among other things the best mechanisms for promoting the UK between now and the 2012 Games. The Review includes full consultation with devolved, regional, and local governments and the tourism industry, and is designed to maximise the impact of public funding for 2012-related tourism work. It is also considering the role of the industry itself in funding the tourism promotion of the Games.

Public Libraries: Closures

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which public libraries have closed in each London borough since 1997; and in which year each closed. [184175]

Margaret Hodge: This information is not compiled centrally. The total number of library service points within each local authority (but not their names or locations) is published annually in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) report Public Library Statistics. The House of Commons Library holds copies of the report for the period in question.

Video Games: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* people and *(b)* under 18-year-olds have participated in the Byron Review of the effects of video games to date; what percentage of the population this represents; how many people he expects to participate in the Review in total; when he expects the Review to be published; and what plans for further research on the effects of violent video games on (i) adults and (ii) children his Department has. [178684]

Margaret Hodge: Dr. Byron is expected to complete her independent review looking at risks to children from exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games in March 2008.

Dr. Byron has engaged a wide range of stakeholders, largely through the involvement of around 150 umbrella organisations. Some of these groups have undertaken their own consultations or commissioned quantitative research.

In addition, Dr. Byron held two public calls for evidence, one specifically aimed at children and young people under 18, for which received around 350 responses. We expect the review to publish a list of contributors, including details of focus group research carried out with children and parents and discussions with children's boards.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no current plans to conduct further research in this area, although we may reconsider this when we see the findings of the review, if it is deemed appropriate.

Wicksteed Park

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will visit Wicksteed Park in Kettering to discuss with the Wicksteed Trust how his Department might assist the promotion and development of the UK's first leisure park for the benefit of the local and wider community. [184810]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: My Department and its partner non-departmental public bodies are of course keen to assist the promotion and development of attractions such as those provided by the Wicksteed Trust. Indeed, Wicksteed Park is promoted by VisitBritain's websites (which promote Britain abroad and England to the domestic markets). The Park was also featured in the recent 'Family Fun' campaign.

The Wicksteed Trust has received funding from English Heritage, through a substantial grant in 2006 for the repair of the orangery. The Trust has also received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2003 and 2006.

Regarding children's play facilities specifically, the Children's Play Information Service produces a fact sheet on potential sources of funding, 'How to raise funds for children's play'. It is available through the National Children's Bureau website.

There are many projects and organisations across the Cultural sectors which deserve support. As outlined, the Trust does in fact receive support from my Department and its partners through existing programmes. If the Trust were to write to me with an invitation, I would be happy to consider visiting Wicksteed Park should other commitments permit it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's performance against objectives in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq has been in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [184208]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: The information requested can be found in the DFID annual report. Copies of this are available in both Libraries of the House.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [182998]

Gillian Merron: DFID does not hold a separate advertising budget and we do not hold figures for advertising expressed in financial years prior to 2002-03. The majority of our advertising relates to recruitment advertising in newspapers and journals. Since 2002-03 less than 0.02 per cent of DFID's total expenditure was on advertising.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2080W, on departmental marketing, what the dimensions are of the display in the Palace Street offices. [184993]

Mr. Malik: The dimensions of the photographs and frames used in the display of former Ministers in Palace Street are in the following table. This display is not for, and has never been used for, any departmental marketing purposes.

Ministerial photograph and caption	*Frame size*	*Image size*
Mr A E Gram MP . Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Overseas Development: October 1964 to October 1969	33cm x 39 cm tall	15 cm x 17 cm
Mr. Ben Whittaker, MP, parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Overseas Development: October 1969 to June 1970	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 20 cm
Right hon. Barbara Castle MP, Minister of Overseas Development: October 1964 to December 1965	33 cm x 39 cm	20 cm x 15 cm
Right hon. Robert Carr MP, Secretary for Technical Co-operation: May 1963 to October 1964	33 cm x 39 cm	20 cm x 15 cm
Right hon. Denis Vosper TD MP, Secretary for Technical Co-operation: June 1961 to May 1968	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 20 cm
Mr John Tomlinson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister of Overseas Development: June 1977 to May 1979	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 20 cm
The Right hon. Anthony Greenwood MP Minister of Overseas Development: December 1965 to August 1966	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 19.5 cm
The Right hon. Arthur Bottomley MP, Minister of Overseas Development: August 1966 to August 1967	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 19.5 cm
The Right hon. Richard Wood MP, Minister for Overseas Development: June 1970 to March 1974	33 cm x 39 cm	22 cm x 19 cm
Right hon. W. Price MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Overseas Development: March 1974 to September 1974	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 19 cm
Mr John Grant MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister of Overseas Development: October 1974 to April 1976	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 19 cm
The Right hon. Reginald Prentice J.P MP, Minister of Overseas Development: August 1967 to October 1969, June 1975 to December 1976	33 cm x 39 cm	16 cm x 21 cm

Ministerial photograph and caption	*Frame size*	*Image size*
Frank Judd MP, Minister of Overseas Development: December 1976 to February 1977	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 19.5 cm
The Right hon. Judith Hart MP, Minister of Overseas Development: October 1969 to June 1970, March 1974 to June 1976, February 1877 to May 1979	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 15 cm
The Right hon. Sir Neil Martin MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development: May 1969 - January 1983	33 cm x 39 cm	15 cm x 20cm
The Right hon. Timothy Raison MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development: January 1983 - September 1986	33cm wide x 39cm tall	15 cm x 20cm
Christopher Patten MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development: September 1986 - July 1989:	33cm wide x 39cm tall	15 cm x 18.5 cm
The Right hon. The Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development: July 1987-April 1989	33cm wide x 39cm tall	15 cm x 19cm
The Right hon. Clare Short MP, Secretary of State for International Development: May 1997-May 2003	33cm wide x 39cm tall	13.5 cm x 19 cm
The Right hon. Baroness Valerie Amos, Secretary of State for International Development: May 2003 - October 2003	33cm wide x 39cm tall	13 cm x 16 cm

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards the millennium development goal of improving maternal health in each year since 2000; and what steps his Department is taking to address socio-economic obstacles to progress in developing countries where the rate of improvement has been comparatively low. [184959]

Gillian Merron: Modest progress has been made in reaching MDG 5 since 2000 by the international community. There has been some improvement in parts of India, China, Nepal and Bangladesh, but maternal death rates are increasing in some sub-Saharan African countries because of HIV infection, conflict and weak health systems. The most recent figures, for 2005, show that the number of maternal deaths worldwide increased to 536,000 each year from 529,000 in 2000.

The UK Government supported the "Women Deliver" conference in October 2007, which highlighted the need for accelerated progress in order to meet the maternal health Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and identified the socio-economic obstacles which women face when seeking maternal care as a key area to be addressed. During the conference, the UK Government announced that a further £100 million over five years will be provided through the united nations population fund to improve access to family planning commodities and equipment.

DFID's "Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action", published in April 2004, sets out our maternal health strategy, including how to address the wider social and economic barriers to access.

Developing Countries: Sustainable Development

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps the Government have taken to assist developing countries to introduce environmentally sustainable development schemes since 1997; [180713]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to encourage developing countries to prioritise environmentally-friendly policies since 1997. [180714]

Mr. Thomas: DFID works with other donors to help poorer countries identify their own development priorities, policies and plans that incorporate environmental sustainability. DFID also works with others to help partner countries tackle specific environmental challenges, such as better use of forests; water, land and fisheries. Examples of action since 1997 are:

Helping Governments address the environment in the poverty reduction strategies of Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

DFID joint funded the UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative which helped Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Vietnam and Cambodia to include environmental management for poverty reduction in their development plans.

Work with other donors to produce OECD guidance that helps developing countries produce national strategies for sustainable development.

Leading production of OECD guidance on the use of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation.

Defra are leading work with DFID and FCO on Sustainable Development Dialogues that help China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico to introduce sustainable development policies, plans and activities.

Integrating forestry issues into development assistance provided at regional and country programme level, such as in Indonesia and Cameroon.

DFID is supporting capacity building and institutional reform in fisheries in several developing countries (in southern Africa, Sierra Leone and India).

DFID will also provide core funding of £6 million to UN Environment Programme (UNEP) between 2008 and 2011, in addition to the £4.2 million from Defra in 2007. DFID assistance will help UNEP strengthen its poverty and environment work with developing countries, including joint work with UNDP to help poor countries introduce environmentally sustainable development policies and plans.

DFID is helping developing country Governments prepare for climate change, contributing £20 million to UN funds for developing adaptation strategies and piloting adaptation projects.

The Environment Transformation Fund (ETF) has an £800 million international window to be managed jointly by DFID and Defra. This will support development and poverty reduction through environmental protection, and help poor countries respond to climate change. £50 million has already been earmarked for tackling deforestation in the Congo Basin.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183854]

Mr. Thomas: DFID uses ethically traded items wherever possible in its staff restaurants and for official functions and meetings. For instance, all tea and coffee served in the building is currently fair trade. We also serve other items such as fruit and chocolate, and disposable items, which are fairly traded and certified by either the Fairtrade Foundation or other certification schemes such as Rainforest Alliance.

Gaza: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to provide aid supplies to the people of Gaza affected by recent events. [182943]

Mr. Malik: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development gave to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) and my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 297.

HIV Infection: Children

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to provide support to strengthen the organisational capacity of national Governments and civil society working with children affected by HIV and AIDS. [182876]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government are working with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of plans for national orphans and vulnerable children and to ensure that they are fully in line with broader national HIV/AIDS plans. Better plans will enable social welfare ministries to meet their own objectives and to co-ordinate the efforts of others, including civil society organisations.

DFID's funding through public partnership agreements also supports civil society organisations to respond to the needs of children affected by AIDS. These organisations include Plan UK, World Vision and Save the Children.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist development in India since 1997. [182944]

Mr. Malik: DFID has maintained a large development programme in India since 1997 (currently DFID's largest country programme). Over that period DFID has worked in close partnership with the Indian Government (and also with multilateral and civil society) to help improve India's progress against the millennium development goals.

In 1997, the programme was geographically dispersed and covered a wide range of sectors. Over the next decade, the programme budget rose steadily but the portfolio was honed so that DFID India was managing fewer, larger projects in those sectors where we knew we were having the most impact; particularly health, education, rural livelihoods and urban development. DFID now only works at the state level in the five states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, as well as with central Government.

DFID India is soon to launch its new country plan for India, setting out its strategy to 2015. As well as continuing to work in those sectors where significant impact has been made, there will be an enhanced focus on the poorest sections of Indian society. There will also be a new element in which DFID collaborates with the Indian Government on poverty issues that affect the poor worldwide and not just in India, such as climate change.

Mozambique: Floods

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to assist Mozambique to rebuild the damage caused by the latest floods. [182945]

Gillian Merron: We are monitoring developments in Mozambique very closely. DFID's humanitarian adviser has just returned from the region and discussed with the Government of Mozambique their preparedness and response plans.

DFID has provided some £97,000, through Save the Children, for the delivery of emergency water and sanitation to 10,000 affected people. The UN is also drawing on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for priority operations in the humanitarian response. The UK Government are the biggest contributor to the CERF having provided £40 million in 2008. The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) launched a preliminary appeal for $7.3 million to address the immediate humanitarian needs of up to 150,000 people across the region. DFID is finalizing its response to this appeal.

Assessments of the situation by Government, UN and NGO agencies are ongoing and DFID continues to monitor the situation closely. We will respond as unmet humanitarian needs are identified.

Overseas Aid: Malaria

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on funding for malarial control in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [183793]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This is a matter of ongoing discussion and consideration within the Department for International Development.

DFID provides support for malaria control through a variety of channels including international organisations and partnerships, bilateral country programmes and through financing research.

With others, DFID is currently looking at additional ways of scaling up malaria control in a comprehensive fashion. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership and DFID are leading the discussions on the Affordable Medicines for Malaria (AMFm) facility. This will subsidise the purchase price of artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs) and support a package of interventions along the supply chain so they become more affordable and accessible in developing countries where resistance has developed to traditional therapies. Other possibilities include increasing public health measures including bednet provision, improved diagnostics and research into a vaccine.

Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [184008]

Mr. Malik: Disaggregated information on any products procured with departmental or Government branding is not available. A range of branded materials are produced and purchased as an integral part of work to raise public awareness of international development, but it is not possible without incurring disproportionate cost to establish whether plastic bags featured among these products in the past two years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bellwin Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have applied for Bellwin scheme funding consequent upon the flooding of July 2007; and if she will make a statement. [184087]

John Healey: 19 local authorities have so far applied for funding through the Bellwin scheme for the flooding in July. Originally, 52 local authorities registered an intention to do so. We are ready to make payments—which, exceptionally, will reimburse 100 per cent. of eligible costs above a threshold—within 15 working days of receiving valid claims.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* advice and *(b)* assistance her Department is providing to local authorities who have registered their intention to claim under the Bellwin scheme in respect of flood damage; and if she will make a statement. [184088]

John Healey: The Department places guidance about the operation of the scheme and the likely eligibility of costs on its website at the start of each year, so that authorities have a good understanding in advance about how the scheme works.

In the aftermath of the floods in summer 2007, the Department contacted affected authorities to ensure that they were aware of the Bellwin scheme and the need to register an intention to claim within a month of the flooding. Officials held seminars in Leeds and London to provide specific information and advice, and to allow authorities to ask specific questions. This was accompanied by letters to authorities, describing the terms of the scheme (including the special terms for this scheme). Government offices reinforced the key messages in regular communications with authorities, including the availability of the Bellwin team within my Department to provide advice.

Since then, the Bellwin team has provided tailored advice to individual authorities, through meetings, e-mail correspondence, phone contact and, where appropriate, site visits.

The Department has now paid £8.8 million under the Bellwin scheme in respect of the 2007 floods; and expects to make further payments shortly.

Care Homes: Planning

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities with planning responsibilities on *(a)* the delivery of housing with care for older people and *(b)* developing the extra care model of accommodation supported by the Department of Health; and if she will make a statement. [183758]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government worked with the Department of Health, the Care Service Improvement Partnership and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) to publish the RTPI Good Practice Note 8 on Extra Care Housing in October 2007.

We will shortly be publishing a national strategy for housing in an ageing society which covers the strategic role of local authorities with planning responsibilities and the development of specialised housing for older people. Alongside the strategy a practical toolkit for local authorities will be published to help with the strategic development of housing with care including extra care housing.

We are also working with the Department of Health to support them in the distribution of a capital grant made available since 2004 to encourage local authorities to develop extra care housing. The availability of this grant has been extended for a further two years.

Community Development: Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department made available for regeneration projects and community building initiatives in *(a)* Thanet and *(b)* Dover District Council areas in each of the last three years. [183756]

John Healey: Thanet and Dover districts have received a wide variety of funding for regeneration initiatives since the late 1990s. Some of this is specific to the Communities and Local Government Department, but with the growth of single 'pots' there has also been a merger of different funding streams from different Government Departments. While it is possible to state that Thanet received £2,681,792.00 in neighbourhood element and cleaner, safer, greener funding for regeneration activities in the last two years, other funding streams—such as the European Objective 2 programme, the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, and Single Regeneration Budget—are divided across districts and wider areas. Thanet is also eligible for around £4 million from the new working neighbourhoods fund, over the next three years.

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of the collection of council tax in 2008-09. [184317]

John Healey: No estimates of the cost of collection of council tax are made in the calculation of revenue support grant. Information about the cost to local authorities of collecting council tax is not available separately until authorities report their outturn revenue expenditure.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182714]

Mr. Dhanda: For information on the annual aggregate level of bonus payments to all staff, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 541W.

With regard to bonuses for press and communications officers, it is not possible to disaggregate this information in the manner requested. A number of Machinery of Government changes and recent internal reorganisation has had a material effect on availability of relevant data and there is a further risk that disclosure of payments to a small group of staff could lead to the identification of individuals.

In Communities and Local Government, bonuses are paid to staff below the senior civil service who exceed against their business related objectives for the year. For senior civil servants, bonus payments are made to individuals whose contribution has a significant impact on the Department's performance across the year. Personal contribution is assessed against a range of individual and organisational objectives.

Empty Property

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average long-term rate of vacant dwellings was in each region in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [184394]

Mr. Iain Wright: The long-term vacancy rate for each region in England is tabulated as follows. The rates are for those long-term vacant dwellings that have been empty for more than six months. Figures are measured at a snapshot date of 9 October 2006.

Long term empty (greater than six months) as a proportion of total stock

	Percentage
North East	1.9
North West	2.3
Yorkshire and Humber	1.6
East Midlands	1.5
West Midlands	1.6
East	1.0
London	1.2
South East	1.0
South West	1.1
England	1.4

Source:
Council Tax Base (CTB1) returns

Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 898W, on floods, if she will place in the Library a copy of the latest regional flood risk appraisal for each government office region. [182889]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regional flood risk appraisals are prepared by regional planning bodies. It is more appropriate that copies of them are available for inspection at their offices, closer to where those most interested live, rather than being placed in the Library. Regional flood risk appraisals should be available on each Government office website.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative costs of the Government offices for the regions were in England in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [183250]

John Healey: The administrative costs of each Government office for the two years in question are as follows:

		Amount (£000)
Government office	*1996-1997*	*2006-2007*
North East	8,687.15	12,730.25
NorthWest[1]	14,189.04	16,933.67
Yorkshire and Humber	8,765.04	10,676.64
West Midlands	10,040.37	14,925.87
East Midlands	6,616.67	11,490.17
East	6,168.97	12,211.64
South East	8,406.18	13,677.13
South West	7,140.74	14,570.49
London	14,106.47	17,595.20
Total	84,120.63	124,811.78

[1] North-west and Merseyside were separate regions until 1998, though the combined figures are shown under north-west for 1996-97.

Housing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average projected lifespan is of a new domestic dwelling in England; and if she will make a statement. [184239]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not make any assumptions for the purpose of policy-making on the average projected lifespan of a new domestic dwelling in England.

Predicting the lifespan of a new building is not an exact science and many factors need to be considered. The actual lifespan of a new domestic dwelling will be influenced by customer specifications, its location, the conditions of use and maintenance levels.

Housing Starts

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department has set for the number of *(a)* privately developed, *(b)* social rented and *(c)* other affordable homes to be built in each region of England in each of the next 10 years; what her latest estimate is of the number likely to be built in each case; and if she will make a statement. [184238]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper published in July 2007 detailed our proposals to tackle housing affordability and set a target to increase housing supply to 240,000 additional homes a year by 2016, delivering approximately 2 million new homes by 2016 and 3 million new homes by 2020. The detail of where additional housing will be located is a matter for regional and local planning processes and functions.

We also announced an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11. Of these 45,000 homes will be for social rent, with a goal to go further to 50,000 new homes for social rent in the next spending review period. We will also be providing 25,000 homes for low cost home ownership each year. The majority of these new homes will be provided with funding from the Housing Corporation and the Homes and Communities Agency once it is established. We are considering their draft programme for 2008-11 and allocations will be announced shortly. The number of new affordable homes to be provided from 2011-12 will be the subject of further spending reviews.

Housing: South West Region

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2330W, on Housing: South West region, what estimate she has made of the increase in dwellings in each local authority area under the Independent Panel's proposals, expressed as a percentage of the current housing stock in that area. [183499][1]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The following table sets out the information requested.

	Total dwellings as at 2006	*Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy*	*Percentage increase in dwellings for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy*
Bath and North East Somerset UA	73,205	18,800	26
Bournemouth UA	80,973	16,100	20
Bristol, City of UA	176,987	30,000	17
Caradon	39,316	6,500	17
Carrick	42,403	10,900	26
Cheltenham	50,798	8,100	16
Christchurch	22,520	3,450	15
Cotswold	38,108	6,900	18
Dartmoor National Park[1]	—	1,000	
East Devon	61,684	17,100	28
East Dorset	38,313	6,400	17
Exeter	48,296	12,000	25
Exmoor National Park[1]	—	400	—
Forest of Dean	34,786	6,200	18
Gloucester	49,445	11,500	23
Isles of Scilly[1]	1,193	100	8
Kennet	33,558	6,000	18
Kerrier	42,621	14,400	34
Mendip	46,086	8,300	18
Mid Devon[1]	32,047	7,400	23
North Cornwall	40,076	13,400	33
North Devon[1]	41,949	10,900	26
North Dorset	29,011	7,000	24
North Somerset UA	85,581	26,750	31
North Wiltshire	55,071	13,700	25
Penwith	32,148	7,800	24
Plymouth UA	111,317	24,500	22
Poole UA	64,032	10,000	16
Purbeck	21,122	5,130	24

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[1] [*Official Report, 26 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 13MC.*]

	Total dwellings as at 2006	Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy	Percentage increase in dwellings for period 2006-26 recommended by the Independent Panel in their report on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy
Restormel	44,513	15,700	35
Salisbury	49,429	12,400	25
Sedgemoor	47,378	10,200	22
South Gloucestershire UA	105,035	30,800	29
South Hams[1]	41,274	11,800	29
South Somerset	69,660	19,700	28
Stroud	47,711	9,100	19
Swindon UA	82,530	34,200	41
Taunton Deane	46,859	21,800	47
Teignbridge[1]	55,673	16,400	19
Tewkesbury	34,090	14,600	43
Torbay UA	62,211	20,000	32
Torridge	28,362	10,700	38
West Devon[1, 3]	22,561	4,400	20
West Dorset	46,787	12,500	27
West Somerset[2]	17,013	2,500	15
West Wiltshire	54,100	12,300	23
Weymouth and Portland	29,714	5,600	19
Total	1,604,943	569,450	35

[1] Estimated strictly local needs provision only.
[2] Housing stock data includes part in Exmoor National Park.
[3] Housing stock data includes part in Dartmoor National Park.

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 898-99W, on local government finance, if she will place in the Library a copy of the demographic change modelling which informed the settlement. [182815]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Political Activities: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she *(a)* has given and *(b)* plans to give to local authorities on the provision without charge of local authority facilities for political campaigning. [183528]

John Healey: Guidance with regard to the content, style, distribution and cost of local authority publicity is contained in the "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity", issued by my Department under Section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986. In particular, the Code stresses that local authorities should not use public funds to mount publicity campaigns to persuade the public to hold a particular view.

Following consultation by my Department last year and the report of the independent Councillors Commission, we intend to consider further the future of the Code with local government stakeholders this year.

Social Services: Finance

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of each local authority in England's spending on adult social care *(a)* in absolute terms and *(b)* as a proportion of total expenditure in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such expenditure was funded by central Government. [183759]

John Healey: The information about spending on adult social services, in absolute terms and as a proportion of local authority revenue expenditure, in each of the last three years, for England was published for England has been published in Statistical Releases and editions of Local Government Financial Statistics and I have placed a table showing this information for individual local authorities in the Library of the House.

The proportion of expenditure on adult social services funded by central Government is not available.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bail hostels there are in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England; and what their total capacity is. [185063]

Mr. Hanson: I understand this question to refer to the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. These are not bail hostels. The service provides accommodation in flats and houses with up to five people sharing, and support to users. A list of towns or areas where accommodation is currently provided or is being sought was included in my written answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1655W. There is no accommodation used by BASS in Ribble Valley and there are no plans to acquire any. Five BASS properties are currently located in Lancashire providing 18 of the 20 bed spaces sought. At present we aim to provide 705 bed spaces in around 150 properties across England and Wales, mostly placing people in the community from which they originate.

If the hon. Member is referring to approved premises, there are none in Ribble Valley, three in Lancashire (60 bed spaces) and 105 across England (2,162 bed spaces).

Circumcisions: Females

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were successfully prosecuted for carrying out female circumcision in each of the last five years. [184844]

Maria Eagle: In the last five years for which data is available (2002-06) no persons have been proceeded against at magistrates' courts in England and Wales for offences under the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 or the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (which repealed and replaced the 1985 Act with effect from 3 March 2004).

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180212]

Mr. Straw: My Department adopts a selective disclosure log whereby only information of wider public interest is routinely published. Between January 2005 and September 2007 my Department received around 2,300 freedom of information requests, 89 per cent. of which were answered in time and 2.2 per cent. were published on our disclosure log. This figure includes responses to requests received by the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform since the Ministry of Justice was established in May 2007. It is of course open to the person making the FOI request to make the information received more widely available. I am ready to make arrangements for the hon. Gentleman to view other information released if he so wishes.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184370]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department and its predecessors spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year; [181536]

(2) how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181600]

Maria Eagle: The spend on travel within and outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years is not separately identifiable in the Department's accounts. The Department's annual accounts group travel, subsistence, and hospitality in one line, and where it may be possible to separate the travel and subsistence element, to distinguish the travel element from this figure may be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Costs of overseas travel for officials incurred by the Department in the last 10 years are not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The data on how many overseas visits, to which countries, and the related costs are not required to be centrally held. These costs are not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the "Civil Service Management Code".

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

The Government's annual publication about overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers is accessible at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

The list includes details about the number of officials accompanying the Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of lists covering information going back to the 1997-98 financial year are available in the Libraries of the House.

Divorce

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to encourage the use of mediation in divorce proceedings not covered by legal aid; and if he will oblige solicitors to offer mediation to respondents entitled to legal aid in such proceedings where the applicant is a private client not so entitled. [184547]

Bridget Prentice: The Government believe that mediation can offer considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved, irrespective of how cases are funded.

To encourage the use of mediation, we have established the Family Mediation Helpline and its supporting website. The Helpline telephone number is 0845 60 26 627 and the website address is

www.FamilyMediationHelpline.co.uk.

We have also sponsored a public awareness campaign and facilitated judicial awareness seminars.

The Government will make changes to court rules and application forms to facilitate referrals to family mediation where the court considers this would be beneficial.

The Children and Adoption Act 2006 when fully implemented will enable the court to direct parties to attend a meeting to learn about mediation in cases where it considers this is appropriate.

In proceedings where one of the clients is in receipt of legal aid, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) pays for an assessment meeting for both the funded client and the privately paying client to enable them to find out about the potential benefits of mediation without incurring costs. If mediation is considered appropriate, the LSC will continue to fund the legally aided client but the privately paying client will pay private rates set by the mediation service. Some services charge on a sliding scale, depending on the client's means.

Mediation by its very nature is a voluntary process and not suitable in all cases, for example where domestic violence is an issue. In both family and civil mediation, parties have to want the process to work in order to reach any agreement.

The Government want to ensure that everyone involved in family disputes knows about the process of, and the possible advantages of, mediation.

Driving Under Influence: Prosecutions

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for drink driving over the Christmas period in each of the last five years. [184720]

Maria Eagle: Data on prosecutions held by my Department do not include the date of offence nor the circumstances behind each one.

Firearms Act 1968: Convictions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2105W, on the Firearms Act 1968: convictions, what proportion of those found guilty were over the age of 18. [184881]

Maria Eagle: Of the 1,077 convictions for offences under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 in England and Wales in 2006, 92 per cent. (991 defendants) were aged over 18.

A detailed breakdown of prosecutions and convictions by police force area and age group are provided in the table as follows.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act, broken down by police force area and age group, England and Wales, 2006 (1, 2)

	10 to 17		*18 and over*		*All ages*	
Police force area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Avon and Somerset	2	2	22	19	24	21
Bedfordshire	—	—	6	4	6	4
Cambridgeshire	—	—	11	8	11	8
Cheshire	—	—	20	16	20	16
City of London	—	—	6	1	6	1
Cleveland	—	—	8	8	8	8
Cumbria	—	—	7	3	7	3
Derbyshire	—	—	11	13	11	13
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	12	11	12	11
Dorset	—	—	8	8	8	8
Durham	—	—	7	6	7	6
Essex	3	3	31	23	34	26
Gloucestershire	—	—	4	5	4	5
Greater Manchester	5	4	103	90	108	94
Hampshire	1	1	26	23	27	24
Hertfordshire	2	2	22	21	24	23
Humberside	—	—	13	11	13	11
Kent	—	1	27	27	27	28
Lancashire	—	—	24	18	24	18
Leicestershire	1	1	17	15	18	16
Lincolnshire	1	1	7	5	8	6
Merseyside	3	2	51	54	54	56
Metropolitan Police	61	43	324	274	385	317
Norfolk	—	—	12	9	12	9
North Yorkshire	—	—	6	5	6	5
Northamptonshire	—	—	2	2	2	2
Northumbria	4	4	39	30	43	34
Nottinghamshire	1	1	27	29	28	30

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act, broken down by police force area and age group, England and Wales, 2006[1,2,3]

	10 to 17		18 and over		All ages	
Police force area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
South Yorkshire	4	4	36	31	40	35
Staffordshire	—	—	10	9	10	9
Suffolk	—	—	8	8	8	8
Surrey	—		7	7	7	7
Sussex	1	1	19	14	20	15
Thames Valley	1	1	26	19	27	20
Warwickshire			8	6	8	6
West Mercia	—	—	13	11	13	11
West Midlands	8	9	76	69	84	78
West Yorkshire	4	4	41	43	45	47
Wiltshire	1	1	13	6	14	7
Dyfed-Powys	—	—	2	1	2	1
Gwent	2	1	9	6	11	7
North Wales	1		15	8	16	8
South Wales	—	—	16	15	16	15
England and Wales	106	86	1,152	991	1,258	1,077

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed these proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Langley House Trust

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons resident at a Langley House Trust hostel and the subject of supervision in the community under court order or parole, have absconded and been convicted of a further offence, broken down by offence. [181215]

Maria Eagle: Of the six Langley House Trust residents who absconded during 2007-08, none has been convicted of a further offence.

Limitation Periods

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what account he plans to take of the recent court ruling on limitation periods in drawing up his own proposals for making statutory changes to limitation periods; [184419]

(2) when he plans to bring forward legislation on changes to limitation periods. [184420]

Bridget Prentice: The Government will take full account of the recent ruling by the House of Lords regarding limitation periods. The Government are preparing a consultation paper which will seek views on a draft Bill to implement the Law Commission's recommendations to reform the law in this area. The consultation paper will also consider specific issues arising out of the House of Lords decision namely the exercise of the court's discretion to extend the limitation period and the way in which the claimant's 'date of knowledge' is defined in abuse cases.

The Government intend to consult fully before changing the law of limitation. Depending on the results of the consultation, the Government will then seek to introduce legislation when parliamentary time allows. A date for the publication of the consultation paper has not yet been set.

Magistrates: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates on the Warrington bench come from *(a)* Warrington, North constituency, *(b)* Warrington South constituency, *(c)* outside the borough and *(d)* from one of the 20 per cent. of the most deprived wards in the borough as measured by the standard index of deprivation. [185008]

Mr. Straw: There are 91 magistrates in the Warrington local justice area. 31 magistrates live in *(a)* Warrington, North constituency; 40 magistrates live in *(b)* Warrington, South constituency; nine magistrates come from *(c)* outside the borough; and *(d)* it is not known how many come from the most deprived wards. 11 magistrates' postcodes are unknown. Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace follow The Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor's directions when making recommendations for appointment to the magistracy. This provides guidance that each local justice area should broadly reflect the community it serves including geographical spread.

National Offender Management Service

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria the National Offender Management Service will use in selecting *(a)* secular and *(b)* faith-based voluntary sector organisations as partners in programmes to reduce re-offending; and if he will make a statement. [184134]

Mr. Hanson: We are committed to maximising the contribution made by the third sector including both secular and faith-based organisations in reducing re-offending and protecting the public.

We are currently consulting on a Third Sector Action Plan and a faith consultation paper, "Believing We Can", to explore how to strengthen both engagement with the third sector and its role in service delivery. This is in line with creating competitive neutrality for providers and potential providers. We recognise that some types of organisations face specific barriers to competing and delivering public services.

The criteria for contesting and selecting any services provided by third sector organisations and all providers will be the same in accordance with our commitment to achieve best value out of available resources and drive better service delivery within a framework of equality and best practice. Also work is taking place in NOMS on developing standards on commissioning faith based interventions.

National Security Strategy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role his Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [184231]

Mr. Wills: My Department is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received *(a)* the maximum sentence, *(b)* a custodial sentence and *(c)* a community sentence for possession of a knife in a public place in each of the last two years. [182758]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Figures for 2007 will be available from autumn 2008.

The Violent Crime Reduction Bill (2006) doubled the maximum sentence for possession of knife in a public place from two to four years.

Persons[1] sentenced for possession of a knife in a public place, England and Wales, 2005-06

Defendants

Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Immediate custody*	*Maximum sentence[2]*	*Community sentence*
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 3	2005	5,957	965	1	2,797
		2006	6,284	1,070	2	2,970
Possession of offensive weapons[3] without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953 sec 1 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 2[1]	2005	5,689	829	2	3,031
		2006	5,630	788	1	2,938

[1] Principal offence basis.

[2] Two years for blade or point offences and four years for offensive weapon offences. (At the Crown court.)

[3] Will include knives, but information collected centrally does not provide a distinction between them and other offensive weapons.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners Release: Electronic Tagging

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans his Department has to use satellite tracking for prisoner release with (a) electronic tags and (b) radio frequency identification tags; and if he will make a statement; [184139]

(2) what plans his Department has to use radio frequency identification tag implants under the electronic tagging scheme; and if he will make a statement. [184140]

Mr. Hanson: Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in May 2007 the Home Office ran satellite tracking pilots from September 2004 until June 2006, during which time 517 offenders were subject to tracking. Most of these were prisoners released on licence at the end of their sentence who were deemed at high risk of re-offending or high risk of harm, including sex and violent offenders.

Tracking was based on global positioning system (GPS) technology, and subjects were required to wear a tracking unit, normally worn around the waist, and a radio frequency electronic ankle tag. The pilots were subject to an independent evaluation and the final report was published online on 2 August 2007. A copy was placed in the House of Commons Library. It is not proposed to undertake any further work on satellite tracking in the short to medium term.

There are no plans being considered for the use of radio frequency implants within the criminal justice system. There is no evidence that the technology would work successfully and there are fundamental issues about requiring offenders to submit to a medical procedure for the purpose of implanting a microchip.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government plans to take to address prison overcrowding in each of the next three years. [184825]

Mr. Straw: On 5 December the Government announced their response to Lord Carter of Coles' report on prisons, including measures to both increase the supply of prison places and reduce the demand for them.

The Government are committed to providing an additional 10,500 prison places on top of its existing 9,500 capacity programme. Our aim is to achieve an overall capacity of 96,000 places by 2014. The building programme will include up to three "Titan" prisons of about 2,500 places each.

In 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively, approximately 2,500, 1,600 and 3,900 additional places are planned to be delivered.

We have tabled amendments to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill to give effect to measures recommended by Lord Carter to reduce the demand for custody. These measures should start to have an impact in the second half of this year.

The measures we are taking will ease the pressure on the prison estate. No prison is expected to operate at a level of crowding beyond that which the Prison Service area manager (or Regional Offender Manager in the case of a contracted prison) considers safe.

Prostitution: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for offences relating to prostitution in Leicester in the last four years. [184226]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to prostitution for the years 2003 to 2006 in Leicestershire police force area can be viewed in the following table.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

It is not possible to separately identify the number of defendants prosecuted for offences relating to prostitution in Leicester from all those proceeded against in the Leicestershire police force area for offences relating to prostitution.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to prostitution in Leicestershire police force area for the years 2003 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Prosecutions
2003	12
2004	5
2005	1
2006	16
Total	34

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to prostitution in Leicestershire police force area for the years 2003 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes:

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.46, Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 S.9(1), Street Offences Act 1959 S.1(1).

Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1(1)(a), 1(1)(b), 2(1), 33, 33A, 34, 35(1), 36, 48(1)(a), 49(b)(ii) and (2), 50(1a), (b)(i) and (2), 52, 53, 57, 58, and 59.

Town Police Clauses Act 1847 S.35

Vagrancy Act 1824 S.3 and 4

Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 2, 3, 4, 9, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

[4] It is not possible to separately identify offences under Sections 22 and 23 from 2, 3, and 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 1957 as they are grouped together. Likewise, it is not possible to separately identify offences under Sections 22 and 23 from 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 1957 as they are grouped together.

[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Reoffenders

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population were being detained as a result of probation recall in *(a)* May and *(b)* November in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [182686]

Mr. Hanson: The number and proportion of the prison population being detained as a result of recall in *(a)* May and *(b)* November is shown in the following table every year since 2003 (the earliest date for which this information is available).

	Recalled population	*As a percentage of the total prison population*
May 2003	2,489	3
May 2004	3,174	4
May 2005	3,378	4
May 2006	4,018	5
May 2007	5,104	6
November 2003	2,916	4
November 2004	3,309	4
November 2005	3,808	5
November 2006	4,724	6
November 2007	5,407	7

The number of prisoner recalled to custody has increased over recent years. There are several reasons for this increase: nearly all prisoners on licence can now be recalled to prison executively by the Secretary of State. Prior to 1998, prisoners serving less than four years could be recalled only by the courts, a slow and bureaucratic process that was rarely used. The Probation Service has become far more effective in enforcing licence conditions. In 1997 appropriate enforcement action was taken in only a third of cases where the offender breached a sentence being served in the community. This figure was over 90 per cent. in 2007; and there is more robust supervision of high risk licensees and better information sharing between police and probation, through multi agency public protection arrangements.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing: Firearms

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those sentenced since 1 April 2004 to custodial sentences of less than five years for the offence of possession of a firearm were *(a)* white and *(b)* of (i) African, (ii) Caribbean, (iii) South Asian and (iv) other heritage. [181581]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to separately identify ethnic records from sentencing statistics on the Courts Proceedings Database.

Supervised Contact Centres

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which constituencies in England and Wales have supervised contact centres within *(a)* five miles and *(b)* 10 miles of the constituency boundary. [184755]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

Young Offender Institutions: Criminal Damage

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost was of repairing criminal damage in young offender institutions in each county in England and Wales in each of the last five calendar years; [185067]

(2) how many incidents of criminal damage were recorded in young offender institutions in each county in England and Wales in each of the last five calendar years; [185068]

(3) what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of criminal damage in young offender institutions. [185069]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of repair of criminal damage is incorporated in the Prison Service maintenance budget. The Prison Service spends on average £40 million year on maintenance. Figures for the cost of criminal damage are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of incidents of damage recorded in young offender institutions in each county in England and Wales in the last five years is shown in the following table. It is not possible to distinguish between incidents which are defined as "criminal damage" and incidents involving minor damage, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Incidents of damage recorded in England and Wales 2003-07

	Calendar year				
County	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Berkshire		3	6	9	7
Bristol	183	103	88	30	13
Buckinghamshire	2	2	1	6	2
Cheshire	—	—	—	1	3
County Durham	2	32	37	48	29
Dorset	5	22	18	25	43
Kent	5	5	3	1	6
Lancashire	36	77	124	170	121
Leicestershire	24	14	18	17	37
Middlesex	72	141	130	124	92
North Yorkshire	18	12	7	1	5
Northumberland	129	67	59	115	89
Oxfordshire	—	—	—	—	2
Shropshire	21	20	72	92	99
Staffordshire	42	8	25	11	19
Suffolk	1	7	38	33	109
West Yorkshire	46	107	63	115	52
Wolverhampton	50	108	92	52	47
Total	636	728	781	850	775

Criminal damage as legally defined can be the result of many things, including acts of violence and self-harm. The Prison Service has a number of strategies to reduce such incidences. The Violence Reduction Strategy is one such policy and is aimed at addressing all types of violent and disruptive behaviour. For those young offender institutions within the under-18 estate, the Prison Service is working with the Youth Justice Board on a behaviour management programme to support staff in developing a more effective approach to tackling all forms of challenging behaviour, not least violence to other people and damage to property.

Young Offenders: Mentally Ill

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young offenders and juveniles with mental health disorders re-offended within *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three years of their release in the latest period for which figures are available. [182133]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected centrally. The latest information about re-offending by young people is contained in the 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey and was published in a Home Office Statistical Bulletin ("Young People and Crime") in December 2006.

TREASURY

Credit Unions

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals to allow local community organisations to invest in credit unions serving their communities; [184131]

(2) what plans he has to enable more people to access the services of credit unions. [184132]

Angela Eagle: As set out in the summary of responses to the consultation on the "Review of cooperative and credit union legislation", the Government see some merit in both allowing credit unions to be able to admit corporate or unincorporated local community organisations into their membership in certain circumstances and allowing credit unions to have some flexibility in determining their membership criteria to allow more people to access their services. The Government are currently considering the issue in more detail and will make further announcement in due course.

National Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [184230]

Yvette Cooper: Her Majesty's Treasury is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the letter from his Department to the Bank of England setting out the terms and requirements of lending to Northern Rock. [171169]

Angela Eagle: The establishment of lending facilities for Northern Rock at the Bank of England in September and October 2007 were authorised by the Chancellor in accordance with the tripartite memorandum of understanding. The Chancellor wrote to the chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee on 21 September and 11 October 2007 outlining the terms of the Bank of England's facilities. Copies of the letters are available in the House Library. The detailed terms and requirements remain confidential.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the term sheet for the planned guarantees of bonds for Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [178708]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* It would not be appropriate to make the term sheet public at this stage of negotiations.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Statement of 21 January 2008 on Northern Rock, whether the Government plans to require restrictions on *(a)* salary, *(b)* bonus payments and *(c)* other remuneration for (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of Northern Rock whilst the backstop guarantee remains in place. [183103]

Angela Eagle: The tripartite authorities are taking forward discussions with the board of Northern Rock, and with other interested parties, on the potential for a private sector solution for the entire company. As set out by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 21 January, any proposals would be based on an agreed business plan and need to contain appropriate protections that recognise the interests of HM Treasury as a provider of financial support to Northern Rock for so long as HM Treasury's guarantee arrangements remain in place.

Pay: Police

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the overall rate of inflation of a net pay increase to the police force of *(a)* 2.5 per cent. and *(b)* 1.9 per cent. [184207]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Government are committed to continuing to support public sector workers in their efforts to deliver the best possible public services. Over the last 10 years, the Government have therefore sought to increase the number of frontline workers as well as their pay. In particular, the period January 2000 to January 2006 saw an increase of 29.4 per cent. in public sector average earnings, which compares to 23.8 per cent. in the private sector over the same period.

The Government's objectives for public sector pay settlements are that they should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the Government's achievement of the inflation target of 2 per cent..

Wage pressures are one of the factors considered by the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England when setting interest rates to meet the inflation target.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the trend in prostate cancer *(a)* one-year, *(b)* two-year and *(c)* five-year survival rates over the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [184248]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 February 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what assessment has been made of the trend in prostate cancer (a) one-year, (b) two-year and (c) five-year survival rates over the last 20 years; and if a statement will be made. [184248]

The latest available survival rates are for patients diagnosed in 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004. One-year and (c) five-year survival rates for patients diagnosed with prostate cancer in England in 1998-2003 are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Froduct.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=l&ColRank=l&Rank=192

Five-year survival rates for patients diagnosed with prostate cancer in England and Wales in 1991-1999 are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=7091

One-year and five-year survival rates for patients diagnosed with prostate cancer in England in 1971-1975, 1976-1980, 1981-1985 and 1986-1990 can be found in Coleman MP et al (1999) 'Cancer survival trends in England and Wales, 1971-1995: deprivation and NHS Region', London: The Stationery Office. One-year and five-year survival rates from this volume are available on the National Statistics website, for England and Wales at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2990

Two-year survival rates are not available.

Revenue and Customs: Higher Civil Servants

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in travel expenses to the 450 senior managers who attended the three meetings in 2006, held as part of HM Revenue and Customs Leading the Way initiative to discuss the formation of the HM Revenue and Customs Ambition. [184565]

Angela Eagle: Travel expenses were claimed by the individual attendees from their own business unit budgets. No cumulative record is kept of the costs relating to these events.

This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what costs were incurred by HM Revenue and Customs in hosting the three meetings held in 2006 as part of the Leading the Way initiative to discuss the formulation of the HM Revenue and Customs Ambition. [184566]

Angela Eagle: The Leading the Way events were held in April, October and November 2006. They brought together 450 senior members of HMRC staff to set the direction of the new department and to embed an understanding of customer needs.

The scale of the challenge necessitated bringing this senior leadership community together through large-scale events reflecting the UK-wide nature of HMRC's role.

The total cost of these events was £1,342,647.20.

Tax Incentives: Vehicles

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on tax incentives for manufacturers of flexible-fuel vehicles. [185061]

Angela Eagle: Flexible fuel cars registered since 2001 are eligible for the alternative fuel car discount rate in vehicle excise duty.

No representations have been received on the specific matter of tax incentives for manufacturers of flexible-fuel vehicles capable of running on both petrol and high blend bioethanol.

The Treasury routinely receives a range of stakeholder views in the approach to the Budget and the Chancellor considers all relevant economic, environmental and social factors when deciding taxation policy.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individual burdens in business compliance requirements have been *(a)* removed and *(b)* amended in each year since the introduction of the Better Regulation Agenda. [184091]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: Government Departments published simplification plans in December 2007. These plans show more than 700 measures to reduce administrative burdens for the private and third sectors, policy costs and burdens on the public sector between May 2005 and 2010. Over 280 of these measures have been implemented to date.

Further details can be found at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/simplifying/plans.asp

Certification Officer: Trade Unions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of the Certification Officer's staff are members of a trades union. [181854]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: It is a matter for individuals if they wish to join a trade union or not and they are under no obligation to disclose whether or not they are members of trade unions.

Credit Unions

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to encourage people to save with credit unions. [184043]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

As set out in the summary of responses to the consultation on the 'Review of cooperative and credit union legislation', the Government sees some merit in both allowing credit unions to be able to admit corporate or unincorporated local community organisations into their membership in certain circumstances and allowing credit unions to have some flexibility in determining their membership criteria to allow more people to access their services. The Government are currently considering the issue in more detail and will make further announcement in due course.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average annual household bill for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in (i) St. Ives constituency, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [184820]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: The lowest level of aggregation for average annual domestic gas and electricity bills that is available is at gas/electricity region level. It is published quarterly in "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest version of which is accessible online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43302.pdf. The town/cities specified in tables 2.2.3 and 2.3.3 within this publication indicate which region the bills apply too. Plymouth is used to represent the south west, and therefore incorporates Cornwall. Constituency level averages are not available. This publication also holds national level averages for gas and electricity for England and Wales, but not England alone.

Average bills vary significantly with the type of payment method used; therefore all statistics are broken down between the direct debit, standard credit and pre-payment methods. The following table shows the average annual bill for each payment type in Plymouth in cash terms since 1998 (the earliest available year):

	Plymouth (South West)					
	Gas			*Electricity*		
	Standard credit	*Direct debit*	*Prepayment*	*Standard credit*	*Direct debit*	*Prepayment*
1998	312	275	330	280	275	292
1999	306	268	318	274	266	286
2000	299	265	312	271	261	283
2001	297	267	309	266	257	277
2002	312	281	327	264	255	275
2003	322	292	335	269	259	269
2004	336	311	351	270	260	273
2005	387	353	398	308	293	315
2006	478	426	494	162	341	370
2007	554	499	585	395	370	397

National average annual bills are shown in following table from 1998 onwards in cash terms:

	England and Wales					
	Gas			*Electricity*		
	Standard Credit	*Direct Debit*	*Prepayment*	*Standard Credit*	*Direct Debit*	*Prepayment*
1998	315	211	331	266	256	283
1999	304	268	318	260	251	279
2000	295	264	311	253	243	272
2001	293	266	309	246	236	263
2002	310	281	327	244	234	261
2003	320	292	336	245	235	261
2004	333	309	351	251	239	267
2005	386	353	401	281	265	301
2006	475	425	498	335	310	356
2007	553	498	589	381	347	400

EU Law

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of a letter of formal notice issued by the European Commission in March 2007 to the UK Government initiating infringement procedures for incorrectly transposing directive 2007/78/EC into national law. [182663]

Mr. McFadden: Disclosure of the information may prejudice the relations between the United Kingdom and the European Commission and may harm the prospects for reaching a resolution with the Commission over infringement proceedings.

Imports: Natural Gas

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from which countries the UK imported natural gas in 2007; and what the percentage of total natural gas imports was made from each. [184576]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: Data for the whole of 2007 are not yet available. The following table gives data for the 11 months to November 2007.

From	*2007 (TWh)*	*Percentage share 2007*
Belgium[1]	4.7	1.6
Netherlands[2]	64.3	22.6
Norway[3]	203.0	71.2
LNG[4]	13.0	4.6
Total	285.0	100.0

[1] Physical (as opposed to contractual) flows through the Bacton-Zeebrugge Interconnector.

[2] Via the Balgzand-Bacton Line (BBL).

[3] Via the Langeled and Vesterled pipelines, and Tampen Link (from Statfjord to FLAGS).

[4] Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Algeria, Egypt, Qatar and Trinidad and Tobago to the Isle of Grain and Gasport Teesside LNG terminals.

It is not possible to identify the countries of origin of the gas physically received from the Netherlands and Belgium. However, it is believed that the majority of the gas received from the Netherlands is sourced from the Dutch sector of the North Sea and the majority of the gas from Belgium is sourced from Norway via Zeepipe which terminates at Zeebrugge.

Data for the whole of 2007 are due to be published on BERR's website in Energy Trends monthly table 4.3 on 28 February 2008.

Imports: Oil

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from which countries the UK imported oil in 2007; and what the percentage of total oil imports was made from each. [184575]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: Data for the whole of 2007 are not yet available. The following table shows imports into the UK of crude oil by country of origin during the eleven months to November 2007.

In the 11 months to November 2007 total imports of crude oil into the UK were 46 million tonnes, with Norway accounting for over half (55 per cent.).

Imports of crude oil into the UK by country

Million tonnes

Country of origin	*January to November 2007[1]* *Total Crude Oil Imports*	*Percentage of total crude oil imports*
Algeria	2.3	5
Denmark	0.9	2
Libya	0.9	2
Nigeria	0.9	2
Norway	25.4	55
Russia	5.0	11
Venezuela	1.3	3
Other	9.2	20
Total imports	46.0	100

[1] Data are provisional and are subject to change

Source:

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Industrial Health and Safety: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what new *(a)* advice and *(b)* regulatory arrangements have been implemented by the Health and Safety Executive in respect of (i) liquid natural gas storage and transfer planning applications and (ii) biodiesel production and storage planning applications following the Buncefield explosion and fire; and if he will make a statement. [179242]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

As liquefied natural gas and biodiesel were not stored or involved in the incident at Buncefield, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not made any regulatory arrangements or provided advice as a direct result of the fire and explosion.

Unrelated to the Buncefield incident HSE has recently issued a warning and guidance to its staff about the domestic production of biodiesel. This is available on the HSE: website at http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/biodiesel.htm

Generally, HSE does revise its land use planning advice for sites storing or intending to store dangerous substances on the basis of new science and evidence arising from incidents worldwide.

Natural Gas: Prices

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely maximum *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash differences in gas prices in each region which will result from regional pricing. [184661]

Malcolm Wicks: No estimates have been made by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform regarding the regional price differentials that will arise from the most recent (January 2008) announcements regarding regional pricing. Some companies already employ regional gas prices, one company will commence regional gas prices from January 2008, while others have continued with national pricing polices. The effect of this can be seen in table 2.3.3 of 'Quarterly Energy Prices', the latest version of which is accessible online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43302.pdf.

Developments due to the latest announcements will continue to be monitored.

Post Office

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people living in the Vale of York he estimates will be resident more than three miles away from a post office once the restructuring of the Post Office is completed. [184017]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office: Expenditure

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total expenditure was by Post Office Ltd. on the post office network, excluding Crown offices, in the last financial year; what the estimated expenditure is for this financial year, broken down by *(a)* payments to local providers and *(b)* central infrastructure costs of the payments to local providers; how much is expected to be spent on (i) salaries and (ii) commissions; and if he will break down by standard accountancy heading the central infrastructure costs in each financial year. [184462]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library the summaries of responses to the Post Office's Area Plan Proposal for North Yorkshire with Yorkshire East and Keighley given by Post Office Ltd to Postwatch at the Day 92 meeting on the plan. [178829]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many submissions were received by Post Office Ltd. to its consultation on proposed post office closures in Leicester. [184168]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Participation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the implementation of his Department's guidelines on public consultations. [184603]

Mr. McFadden: The code of practice on consultation is embedded in the policymaking processes of the Government. Rates of compliance are high, for example, since the launch of the code of practice between 75 and 80 per cent. of Government consultations have lasted at least 12 weeks as recommended in the code of practice. In response to the Government's recent review of the code, many regular respondents to Government consultations stated that the introduction of a code of practice on consultation had led to an improvement in the quality of Government consultation exercises.

Regional Development Agencies: Managers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many board members of each regional development agency have made a declaration of political activity that involved activity in relation to *(a)* the Conservative Party, *(b)* the Labour Party and *(c)* the Liberal Democrat party. [178889]

Mr. McFadden: The breakdown of declared political activity of board members for the eight regions (excluding London, which is the responsibility of the Mayor) is as follows:

	Breakdown
Advantage West Midlands:	
Labour	2
Conservative	2
Liberal Democrat	1
East of England Development Agency:	
Labour	2
Conservative	4
Liberal Democrat	1
East Midlands Development Agency:	
Labour	4
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	1
ONE Northeast:	
Labour	2
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	1
North West Development Agency:	
Labour	5
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	0
South East of England Development Agency:	
Labour	3
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	1
South West Regional Development Agency:	
Labour	2
Conservative	1
Liberal Democrat	2
Yorkshire Forward:	
Labour	3
Conservative	2
Liberal Democrat	1

Regional Development Agencies: Planning

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on Regional Development Agencies: Planning, what powers regional development agencies will have with regard to income from section 106 planning obligations following the implementation of single integrated regional strategies. [182273]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Planning obligations (under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) can be entered into by local planning authorities (LPAs) and those with an interest in the land ('developers'). Regional planning bodies do not currently have any powers to secure planning obligations and we are not proposing to give such powers to regional development agencies (RDAs).

Developer contributions raised through planning obligations are often passed by LPAs to infrastructure providers. RDAs can also fund infrastructure in certain circumstances, and could do so using monies raised through planning obligations where an LPA had passed the money on to them for that purpose.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider the merits of introducing pre-judging planning decisions for potential renewable energy sites. [184409]

Malcolm Wicks: Pre-judging planning decisions for potential renewable energy sites is not part of the proposals set out in the current Planning Bill.

The Government's Planning White Paper underlined our intentions to work with local planning authorities and the industry to ensure that high quality renewable energy schemes are prepared following engagement with local communities. The new planning policies on climate change published recently by Communities and Local Government underline that planning authorities should not require applicants to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for renewable energy must be sited in a particular location.

Tidal Power: Electricity

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the potential contribution to the national grid of electricity generated by tidal power over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 50 years. [178649]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: There are various tidal power technologies which divide into two main types: tidal stream and tidal range (barrages and lagoons). The Sustainable Development Commission's report "Tidal Power in the UK" of October 2007, estimated that tidal power resource has the potential to provide 10 per cent. of the UK's electricity resource.

According to the SDC report, the top 10 tidal stream sites in the UK have a potential practical resource of 17.5 TWh/year. However, tidal stream technologies are at a very early stage of development and only a few commercial prototypes are in existence. Ernst and Young, in their study for the Renewables Obligation Consultation, www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39038.pdf suggested the maximum likely potential as 0.5 TWh in 2015 and 1.4 TWh in 2020.

For tidal range, the SDC's report estimates the total practical resource as around 18.8 TWh/year, of which the Severn estuary accounts for 17 TWh/year and the Mersey 1.4 TWh/year, though estimates of total theoretical resource vary from 50-94 TWh/year. There are currently no tidal range technologies deployed in the UK, even for testing, though there are a few tidal barrages operating around the world (e.g. La Rance in Northern France) and similar technology has been used for hydroelectric dams.

More detail on the variation throughout the UK of tidal range and tidal flow can be found in the Atlas of UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources which can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wind/page27741.html

On 22 January, the Government launched a two-year Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study to assess the options for tidal power in the estuary. For more details see:

www.berr.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wave-tidal//tidal//severntidalpower/page41473.html

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Media Advisers

8. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many communications, press and marketing staff were employed in the civil service in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [184607]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous).

Civil Service Diversity

9. **Tim Farron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to increase diversity in the civil service. [184608]

Mr. Watson: The 10-Point-Plan on Delivering a Diverse Civil Service outlines how we plan to increase the diversity of the civil service at all levels. Copies of this plan have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Social Exclusion

10. **Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the public service agreement for social exclusion. [184609]

Phil Hope: The Public Service Agreement for socially excluded adults sets out the Government's aspiration that everyone should have the chance to have a home and a job.

This PSA gives a new priority to ensuring that care leavers, adults offenders, adults with mental health problems and adults with learning difficulties can participate fully in society and lead productive and stable lives. The effectiveness of the PSA will be monitored through annual public reporting by both central and local government.

11. **Mrs. Dean:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to address social exclusion of adults with autism. [184610]

Phil Hope: The delivery plan for the socially excluded adults public service agreement highlights the importance for learning disability and social care services to consider the needs of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This builds on existing Government policy for this group, as set out most recently by the Department of Health in the publication "Better services for people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder". We will also learn lessons from the MCCH Autism pilot project, which has a special focus on improving access to services for adults with Autism and Asperger's syndrome.

Family Intervention

12. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the contribution of family intervention projects to social inclusion. [184611]

Phil Hope: Family intervention projects, such as the one in the hon. Member's own constituency, are one of a number of effective interventions that work with socially excluded families. Evaluations of similar intensive family approaches are positive and demonstrate sustained positive change for seven out of 10 families—with improvements in physical and mental health, greater housing stability, reduction in the likelihood of family breakdown, safer communities, and improved educational attainment.

14. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the Family-Nurse Partnership's programme's contribution to social inclusion. [184613]

Phil Hope: The Family Nurse Partnership is based on a US programme that has shown impressive impacts on a range of outcomes that contribute to social inclusion. These include safer home environments and improved maternal health—and, in the long-term, lower offending rates for children and increased workforce participation for parents.

FNP offers structured and intensive home visiting to disadvantaged first time mothers from early pregnancy until the child is two. Barnsley is one of the pioneering pilot sites. £30 million of additional funding has been announced to expand the programme to 90 sites by March 2010 and to undertake a rigorous evaluation of impacts.

Third Sector

13. **Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the role of third sector organisations in campaigning for social change; and if he will make a statement. [184612]

Edward Miliband: Third sector organisations play an essential role in campaigning for change in laws and attitudes. Whether it is large charities that have campaigned for change around issues from disability to child protection or small charities that wish to speak out on local issues, their work plays an important role in speaking up for those who would otherwise not have their voice properly heard.

Data Protection

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Cabinet Office in providing information assurance across government. [184909]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara).

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reason the number of communication and press staff listed in the Central Office of Information's White Book differs from those given in the Answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2056W, on departmental manpower. [181305]

Edward Miliband: The names of nine press officers were submitted to be included in the White Book in early August 2007.

Following publication in September 2007 there were staff moves leaving vacancies which meant that on the 12 September 2007 there were six press officers working in the Cabinet Office press office.

Departmental Responsibilities: Disadvantaged

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers have been responsible for social exclusion policy since 1997, broken down by Department. [184816]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Cabinet Office publication "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" sets out ministerial responsibilities by Departments. Copies of the current "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" and previous editions are available for reference in the Libraries of the House.

Disadvantaged: Elderly

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what work the Social Exclusion Taskforce has carried out into tackling social exclusion among older people; and what further work it has planned on this issue. [184813]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: The Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF) is currently funding a research project to analyse social exclusion amongst all age groups, including looking at the factors influencing social exclusion among older people. The remainder of the SETF's forward work programme is focused on families and working age adults.

The former Social Exclusion Unit published a report entitled "A Sure Start to Later Life: Ending Inequalities for Older People" in January 2006. This set out 30 cross-government actions to tackle social exclusion among older people. Additionally, DWP's Later Life PSA sets targets to tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being among older people.

Respect Task Force

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the Respect Unit was closed, for what reasons it was closed, and whether its staff are being made redundant. [184655]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Respect Taskforce has not closed.

Following the Machinery of Government changes announced last year the Respect Taskforce was transferred to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The Respect Task Force was set up in September 2005 to oversee the delivery of the Respect Programme. Most of the commitments in the Government's Respect Action Plan have been met or are in train and have been mainstreamed into programmes across Government and in local service delivery. This has enabled the work of the Respect Task Force to develop its remit to include, alongside tackling antisocial behaviour, a focus on delivering positive outcomes for young people—including steps to prevent them getting into trouble and encouraging them to have respect for their community. To reflect this change, on 5 October 2007 the Government announced the creation of Youth Taskforce and this includes the former Respect Taskforce.

The Youth Taskforce will build on the success of the Respect programme and will continue to support the local delivery of Government policy on antisocial behaviour, as well as positive outcomes for young people.

Civil servants who worked in the Respect Task Force either remain working within the Department of Children, Schools and Families as part of the Youth Taskforce or are on secondment to other Government Departments.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* more than three anti-social behaviour orders since they were established. [184789]

Mr. Coaker: These data are not held centrally.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time has been for a decision to be made on asylum cases under the Legacy Casework programme whose questionnaires have been completed and returned, and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of discretionary leave to remain in the UK in cases where return would breach Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights have been made in *(a)* asylum cases and *(b)* non-asylum cases in each year since the inception of discretionary leave. [179814]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: Grants of discretionary leave (DL) to persons who have claimed asylum are recorded on individual files. Information is collated on the total number of grants of DL and the number of grants of DL made at initial decision on applications by unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 17 and under at the time of decision. Information is not collated about the reason for granting DL. Information about grants of DL for the purpose of article 8 of ECHR can be obtained by examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Grants of non-asylum discretionary leave (DL) are included within the overall totals of grants of leave to remain (Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006" (table 4.1 pages 54-59 refer) but are not identified separately within the tables. This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Separating article 8 DL grants from these could be obtained by examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases where asylum seekers have been pursued for failing to report to a reporting centre there have been administrative errors in notification of the appropriate centre, in the latest period for which figures are available. [180114]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost by examination of individual records.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the reply of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on asylum, which countries are included in the category Europe other in the breakdown by nationality of the grant of indefinite leave to remain under the 2003 family ILR exercise; and if she will break down by nationality the number in the *(a)* Europe other and *(b)* EU accession states categories. [181904]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Asylum statistics are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Grants of ILR issued under the family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007[1, 2, 3] excluding dependants,[4] for specified nationalities

Country of nationality	*Total*
EU Accession States	
Czech Republic	255
Cyprus	35
Estonia	90
Hungary	*
Latvia	115
Lithuania	380
Poland	580
Slovakia	80
Slovenia	*
Total EU Accession States	1,545
Europe Other	
Bulgaria	65
Croatia	360
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	2,460
Ireland	*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	35
Republic of Montenegro	15
Turkish controlled area of Cyprus	155
Total Europe Other	3,090

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 (* = 1 or 2).
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information.
[4] Nationality recorded as at 7 December 2007 is not necessarily the applicant's nationality at the time of grant of ILR.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been received about the International Training Agency's removal of failed asylum seekers from the UK; and how many have been substantiated. [182068]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1 October 2006 there have been a total of nine complaints received about the International Training Agency's removal of persons from the United Kingdom. Of these, four have been unsubstantiated, one substantiated and the remaining four are still under investigation.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which agencies and organisations have access to personal data held by her Department or its agencies; and which agencies and organisations have been provided with such data in each of the last two years. [167997]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by her Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168816]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in her Department or her Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if she will provide details of each breach. [168838]

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she proposes to review how her Department transports data; and whether her Department uses TNT to transport data. [169222]

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* Government organisations and providers and *(b)* private sector providers her Department and its agencies use for postal and courier services; which of these have lost her Department's files, documents or databases containing personal information in the last five years; what information, relating to how many people, has been lost or mislaid in the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [169561]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many reports have been made to her Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162437]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to her Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162438]

(3) when her Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised civil service code. [162439]

Mr. Byrne: Since 6 June 2006, there have been nine such reports. The Department sends details of the reports to the civil service commissioners on a six-monthly basis.

There have been no known allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported in the Department.

Departmental Plastics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Home Office-branded plastic bags her Department has procured in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176441]

Mr. Byrne: The number of branded plastic bags that the Home Department purchased for the 24 months, January 2006 to December 2007, was 132,000 at a cost of £15,455.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* task forces her Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [172549]

Mr. Byrne: Information relating to ad hoc reviews, groups and task forces is published at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/public-appointments-06-07?version=1.

Information on consultations is available from the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/current-consultations/

and

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/

and also published on the 10 Downing street website at:

http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page13183.asp

Departmental: Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by her Department have given rise to responses that have been published by her Department. [180220]

Mr. Byrne: Between January 2005 and December 2007 the Home Office received 7,172 requests. As of 1 January 2008 977 (13 per cent.) of responses have appeared on the department's disclosure log. This figure includes requests received by the National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform until 9 May 2007 when they ceased to be part of the Home Office upon the creation of the Ministry of Justice. Since the autumn of 2005 the Home Office disclosure log has been maintained on the basis of there being a presumption in favour of publication where information is released.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who were handed down a community sentence were removed from the United Kingdom by *(a)* deportation and *(b)* administrative removal in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [178679]

Mr. Byrne: The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency appeared before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January and advised that the Agency has the power to deport what are regarded as non-conducive cases and that it is using administrative removal in cases where a community sentence has been given rather than deportation. She advised that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in 2007.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who remained in the UK beyond the expiration of their visa were deported in each of the last five years. [178727]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. Information on the number of people who overstayed their visa and were subsequently removed could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection, which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Drugs: Arrests

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of persons found in possession of a class C drug for the first time were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* charged with an offence in the area covered by the Metropolitan Police in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [178107]

Mr. Coaker: Information covering the number of offenders cautioned by the police and proceeded against at magistrates' courts in 2006 for offences relating to the possession of a class C drug in the Metropolitan Police force area, is provided in the following table.

It is not possible to separately identify from the information held by my Department whether the offenders were cautioned or proceeded against for the first time.

Information on charging is not reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Number of offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences in relation to the possession of a class C drug, Metropolitan police force area 2006[1]

Offence	*Offenders cautioned*	*Defendants proceeded against*
Possession of a class C drug	5,040	4,049
Possession of a class C drug with intent to supply	193	493
Total	5,233	4,542

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings database - Office For Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes she has *(a)* made and *(b)* plans to make in respect of the granting of extensions to student visas; in what circumstances such extensions are refused; and if she will make a statement. [177398]

Mr. Byrne: In line with the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC418) laid before Parliament on 28 March 2007, changes relating to extensions of leave to remain as a student took effect on 1 September 2007. This inadvertently led to a particular group of students (those who already had leave to remain in the UK as a student and were applying for further leave to study here, as opposed to those who last entered the UK with a valid student entry clearance) being refused extension applications for not having valid leave.

We have since issued a casework instruction to allow these cases to be treated in line with other groups of students. Casework instructions are kept under review at all times but a major overhaul of all the instructions relating to student applications will be undertaken in preparation of the introduction of the points based system as it will apply for students from the first quarter of 2009.

Firearms: Theft

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotguns, *(b)* rifles and *(c)* handguns were stolen in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997; and how many have been subsequently recovered and returned to the owner. [176308]

Mr. Coaker: Information on firearms stolen, subsequently recovered and returned to the owner is not collected centrally.

Data on misappropriated firearms for England and Wales are given from 1997 to 2006-07. The breakdown of these weapons by police force area is not available centrally for years up to and including 2002-03; therefore force level data are given only from 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Table a: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1997 to 2002-03

Weapon type	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Shotguns	539	524	395	447	431	423	462
Rifles	193	155	179	200	172	139	129
Handguns	305	270	242	219	167	79	85

[1] Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc. or handled dishonestly.

Table b: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04			*2004-05*		
Force	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*	*Shotguns*	*Rifles*	*Handguns*
Avon and Somerset	31	4	1	11	7	0
Bedfordshire	0	2	1	6	12	19
Cambridgeshire	9	4	2	8	0	0
Cheshire	8	1	0	13	3	1
Cleveland	2	0	0	0	1	0
Cumbria	4	0	0	1	0	0
Derbyshire	4	0	2	35	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	4	4	0	24	7	2
Dorset	9	11	0	4	1	0
Durham	5	3	1	15	3	0
Essex	11	0	0	7	0	0
Gloucestershire	3	2	2	4	2	0
Gtr Manchester	7	0	13	0	0	0
Hampshire	10	0	8	8	1	1
Hertfordshire	5	0	2	7	1	1
Humberside	19	23	0	4	12	1
Kent	16	11	3	23	1	6
Lancashire	8	1	2	7	4	1
Leicestershire	12	2	0	11	0	5
Lincolnshire	12	2	0	10	1	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	1	1	0	0	1
Metropolitan	10	11	8	11	0	2
Norfolk	23	0	0	12	5	0
Northamptonshire	21	0	8	24	0	1
Northumbria	2	2	1	0	1	2
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	13	1	1	10	3	18
South Yorkshire	4	0	0	7	0	0
Staffordshire	9	3	2	12	6	0
Suffolk	15	2	0	6	1	0

Table b: Firearms misappropriated[1] in crimes recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04			2004-05		
Force	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
Surrey	6	2	0	6	3	0
Sussex	5	2	7	17	5	4
Thames Valley	49	16	12	40	18	7
Warwickshire	18	0	0	10	3	2
West Mercia	11	12	10	15	15	0
West Midlands	11	2	1	9	12	1
West Yorkshire	6	1	0	7	2	3
Wiltshire	2	2	1	6	2	0
Dyfed Powys	3	1	0	0	0	0
Gwent	2	1	2	4	0	3
North Wales	8	0	5	0	6	0
South Wales	0	1	0	3	1	0
Total	397	130	96	403	140	81

	2005-06			2006-07		
Force	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
Avon and Somerset	11	1	0	2	4	6
Bedfordshire	1	2	0	2	1	0
Cambridgeshire	7	3	0	7	9	4
Cheshire	2	1	0	6	3	3
Cleveland	6	3	3	1	2	0
Cumbria	2	0	0	1	1	0
Derbyshire	7	1	1	7	11	4
Devon and Cornwall	11	1	11	7	8	29
Dorset	1	0	0	2	3	0
Durham	2	1	3	1	0	0
Essex	7	3	3	9	2	2
Gloucestershire	6	0	0	0	0	1
Gtr. Manchester	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hampshire	22	12	4	8	2	3
Hertfordshire	6	8	2	2	6	1
Humberside	3	5	4	11	20	6
Kent	2	23	0	16	9	2
Lancashire	14	2	1	2	1	3
Leicestershire	1	1	27	7	0	0
Lincolnshire	8	1	2	19	2	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	1
Merseyside	4	0	0	1	3	4
Metropolitan	15	11	12	19	22	9
Norfolk	6	4	1	10	2	0
Northamptonshire	11	0	0	6	1	0
Northumbria	7	6	1	14	10	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	9	1	1
Nottinghamshire	2	1	7	1	5	3
South Yorkshire	12	4	2	6	0	5
Staffordshire	3	3	5	5	25	4
Suffolk	4	0	0	8	5	3
Surrey	9	0	0	8	7	0
Sussex	7	0	0	8	15	2
Thames Valley	10	7	6	19	7	2
Warwickshire	9	7	0	12	6	1
West Mercia	4	24	11	13	11	1
West Midlands	8	2	1	5	2	0
West Yorkshire	9	2	0	15	3	0
Wiltshire	3	1	0	1	0	1
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	1	1	0
Gwent	0	0	2	7	0	0
North Wales	1	7	0	4	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	243	147	110	282	210	103

[1] Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc. or handled dishonestly.

Forced Marriage

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that information on helplines and access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is made available at police stations and other public places within the responsibility of her Department. [184352]

Mr. Coaker: As part of the Forced Marriage Unit's outreach programme, the unit circulates forced marriage posters to a range of statutory agencies, including the police. The Forced Marriage Unit encourages agencies to display these posters in both police stations and other public places. In addition, in 2005 the Forced Marriage Unit issued guidance for police officers on dealing with cases of forced marriage.

Identity Documents

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 284W, on identity documents, how many of the 1,222 people convicted or cautioned for failing to produce immigration documents between September 2004 and November 2007 received a sentence of imprisonment. [183597]

Mr. Byrne: On 22 September 2004 Section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act came into force. Section 2 made failing to produce an immigration document, which satisfactorily establishes their nationality or identity, an offence. It does not differentiate between those who fail to produce an identity document or those who destroy an identity document on arrival.

Between 22 September 2004 and 30 November 2007 Border Control criminal investigations teams secured 1,222 convictions under Section 2. All 1,222 of these resulted in a custodial sentence.

The data provided are based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of criminal justice enforcement efforts against those responsible for the facilitating of illegal migration and the employment of illegal migrants; and if she will make a statement. [177413]

Mr. Byrne: The Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) produces an annual assessment of the threat posed to the UK by organised crime, including immigration crime. Co-operation between all UK law enforcement agencies has led to 836 UK prosecutions for facilitation offences between 2003 and 2006 and 735 guilty verdicts. Close co-operation with the national law enforcement agencies of other countries, such as Police aux Frontieres in France, has also led to numerous convictions abroad.

The Government are introducing a tough new sanction of knowingly employing an illegal immigrant, punishable by up to two years in prison. In tackling the employment of illegal migrants, the Government also concluded that the introduction of civil penalties, of up to £10,000 per worker, was likely to provide a more effective alternative to the criminal justice system for dealing with the generality of employers who fail in their legal obligation to avoid illegal sources of labour. Prosecution is then reserved for those cases involving the deliberate or conscious use of illegal workers. This approach is in line with the recommendations of the Hampton and Macrory reports on better regulation Tough new measures to prevent illegal migrant working, provided by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, will come into force on 29 February 2008.

Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what checks her Department and its agencies make on the immigration status of couriers working within her Department and its agencies; and if she will make a statement; [169552]

(2) how many couriers working for or within her Department and its agencies were found to be illegal immigrants in each of the last five years. [169553]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently three messengers, performing duties similar to a courier, based at Home Office headquarters. All have been subject to the Department's normal employment checks, which include checks on immigration status.

Otherwise, the Home Office uses external courier companies to carry out courier services when required. It is the legal responsibility of the courier companies used to ensure that their staff are permitted to work in the UK.

The Identity and Passport Service employs Secure Mail Services (SMS) to deliver passports to its customers and to transport its internal mail. As an additional safeguard since July 2006, IPS has arranged additional immigration status checks on all new SMS courier staff and retrospective checks on existing staff started in October 2007 will be completed in January 2008. No incidences of SMS employing illegal staff have been found.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give a break down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group of the cases in which grant of leave to remain in the UK was granted under the immigration legacy exercise. [177354]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate her Department has made of likely changes in its *(a)* expenditure on and *(b)* revenue from immigration arising from the hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games; [178680]

(2) what provision her Department has planned for the Border and Immigration Agency to manage any increase in demands on its services arising from the Olympic Games in 2012. [178662]

Mr. Byrne: The Borders and Immigration Agency has set up a programme to prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Detailed financial and resource modelling has not been completed and it is too early to say what resources will be necessary to deal with the expected increase in demands arising from the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

The programme is working with key stakeholders to establish requirements and is learning from the experience of past host nations. Its aim is to ensure the efficient passage of participants, workers and visitors coming to the United Kingdom for the 2012 games while maintaining the security of our borders.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds in the form of *(a)* revenue payments, *(b)* capital grants and *(c)* supported borrowing for which her Department is responsible have been made available to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2007-08. [183054]

Mr. Byrne: For 2007-08 the Home Office will make funding available to Kent county council, Thanet district council and Dover district council from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant (YPSMPG), the Drug Intervention programme (DIP) main grant, and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant (UASC).

The SSCF is a joint Communities and Local Government (CLG) and Home Office fund aimed at tackling crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour, empowering communities, improving the condition of streets and public spaces and prioritising the most deprived neighbourhoods. The Home Office contribution to the SSCF is paid to CLG who in turn make the payments to top tier local authorities. It is for these local authorities in two-tier areas (in this case Kent county council), to decide on subsequent allocations within the county to local partners and partnerships as set out in local area agreements. In 2007-08 the Home Office contribution to the SSCF in Kent is £1,384,873 resource and £439,002 capital.

The YPSMPG is a pooled cross-departmental grant, managed by the Home Office. It facilitates better joined-up local planning and commissioning of young people's substance misuse services, in line with the principles in Every Child Matters and enables the delivery of services to be more responsive to local need, by giving greater flexibility in local commissioning decisions. The YPSMPG is paid to Kent county council as the top tier authority and then distributed across the county as per jointly agreed priorities and targets for the development and operation of responses to children and young people's drug use between drug action team chairs, directors of Children's Services and the Government office joint regional team. In 2007-08, Kent's YPSMPG allocation is £1,088,044.

The DIP main grant is a Home Office grant aimed at getting adult drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment and other support. The allocations to local areas are decided centrally, with input from the Government Offices in the regions, and, in Kent's case, are paid to Kent county council. Kent then transfers the funding to the Kent drug action team (DAT) and the Medway DAT. It is for the DATs to decide how best to use the funding to deliver the Drug Intervention programme across their areas, taking account of Home Office guidance. In 2007-08 Kent county council's DIP main grant allocation is £1,385,981, of which £1,151,373 is allocated to the Kent DAT and £234,608 is allocated to the Medway DAT.

The UASC grant is for children under the age of 18, who are separated from both parents and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, has responsibility to do so, and who have applied for asylum in their own right. There is a fixed grant rate the authority can claim per child, and the total claim is dependent on the number of children supported. The maximum grant that Kent is estimated to be able to claim in 2007-08 is calculated at £4.4 million. Payments are made to Kent as it is responsible for managing the UASC grant in this region.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted foreign offenders were given a payment in return for voluntarily leaving the UK in each year since the inception of such payments; what the total value of such payments was in each year; and how many such offenders had been sentenced to *(a)* a custodial sentence of more than 12 months, *(b)* a custodial sentence of less than 12 months, *(c)* a community sentence and *(d)* a fine. [177340]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through examination of individual file records at disproportionate cost. The facilitated returns scheme, which relates specifically to foreign nationals serving custodial sentences for crimes committed within the UK, has run since October 2006. In her letter of 20 November to the Home Affairs Select Committee the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised that more than 900 individuals had been removed under the scheme, 75 per cent. of whom had been removed direct from prison. A copy of the letter is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the 4,000 prisoners deported in 2007 were non-EU nationals; how many were *(a)* recommended for deportation by a judge at the time of sentencing and *(b)* deported following consideration of their case; how many non-EU national prisoners were liable to be considered for deportation in 2007 but not deported; and how many non-EU national prisoners serving sentences of more than 12 months were liable to be considered for deportation in 2007 but not deported; [177400]

(2) how many non-EU foreign prisoners serving sentences of *(a)* 12 months or more and *(b)* less than 12 months have been (i) considered for deportation and deported, (ii) considered for deportation and not deported, (iii) deported following a recommendation from a judge for deportation and (iv) allowed to remain in the UK on the completion of the custodial part of their sentence even though made the subject of a recommendation by a judge for deportation in each year since 1997. [177401]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency appeared before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January and confirmed that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were removed or deported from the United Kingdom in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this includes more than 20 killers, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 1,100 drug offenders.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals serving prison sentences of less than 12 months were deported in 2007. [180680]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months with the most accurate and robust information available on the numbers of foreign national prisoners who have been deported from the United Kingdom. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House. The chief executive appeared before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January and confirmed that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners had been deported in 2007 and she will continue to provide updates to the Committee as required.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* non-EU citizens and *(b)* foreign nationals who were convicted of (i) firearms and (ii) drug offences in the UK were deported in each of the last 12 months. [182763]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency advised the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January that more than 4,200 foreign national prisoners were deported in 2007. The Home Secretary has also confirmed that this included more than 1,100 drug offenders, more than 200 sex offenders and more than 20 killers. The chief executive of the Agency will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee as required.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were removed from the UK after being released from prison in 2007. [178778]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* Those foreign national prisoners subject to deportation action are detained under Immigration Powers following the expiry of their criminal sentences. The chief executive appeared before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January and advised that over 4,200 foreign national prisoners had been removed or deported from the UK in 2007.

Police

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police special officers there were in each police authority in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each year since 2000. [181582]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales.' The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what purpose her Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179324]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not record the political opinions of *(a)* staff or *(b)* the public.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many released prisoners were removed from prison to immigration centres in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; how many such people were subsequently released from immigration centres; and in how many such cases were such releases notified to the (i) police and (ii) Probation Service. [181189]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained through the detailed examination of BIA and Prison Service casefiles only at disproportionate cost. Those foreign criminals subject to deportation action are detained under Immigration Powers upon the expiry of their criminal sentence pending removal or deportation from the UK.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which regulators and inspectorates her Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175304]

Mr. Byrne: Regulators and inspectorates for which the Home Office is currently responsible are:

Regulators

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

Security Industry Authority

The following bodies whose powers are covered by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA): Investigatory Powers Tribunal*; Office of Surveillance Commissioners*; Technical Advisory Panel*; Intelligence Services Commissioner; Interception of Communications Commissioner.

Inspectorates

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate

The following bodies which the Home Office announced in March 2007 were to be merged into a single inspectorate for the immigration system: the BIA Complaints Audit Committee*, the Monitor of Accommodation Centres, the Race Monitor, the Certification Monitor and the Advisory Panel on Country Information*.

Budgets for 1997-98 to 2006-07 are set out as follows:

* Information on these bodies, for years 1997-98 to 2005-06, can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public bodies/index.asp

Information for 2006-07 will be available shortly.

From 2005-06 onwards SIA have had a token estimates section of £1,000 as they are financed through receipted fees.

Data cannot be separately identified for ASPI for financial year 2004-05.

The information on the cost of restructurings and the disaggregation of information on the Intelligence Services Commissioner, the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Monitor of Accommodation Centres, the Race Monitor and the Certification Monitor could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of any restructuring within other bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179870]

Mr. Byrne: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Visas

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to expedite the processing of visa applications for those wishing to attend the 2012 Olympic Games; and what additional resources she estimates will be required to deal with the expected rise in the number of applications. [181878]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 January 2008]:* The handling of visa applications leading up to 2012 forms part of a programme set up by the Border and Immigration Agency to prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. The programme will work with key stakeholders and is looking at the experience of past host nations. It is too early to say what resources will be necessary to deal with the expected increase in visa applications, but a key aim is to ensure the efficient passage of participants, workers and visitors coming to the United Kingdom for the 2012 games while maintaining the security of our Borders.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Birthday Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department has spent on sending birthday messages to people on their 100th birthday in each of the last 10 years. [180142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on how much the Department has spent on sending birthday messages to people on their 100th birthday in each of the last 10 years is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of 100th birthday messages sent by the Department in each of the last 10 years is in the table.

	Number of 100th birthday messages sent
1997	3,326
1998	3,492
1999	3,761
2000	3,900
2001	4,171
2002	4,270
2003	4,133
2004	4,005
2005	4,428
2006	4,639
2007	4,991

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the practice of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions sending messages to people on their 100th birthday was introduced. [180143]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The exact information is not available. However, there is evidence that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and its predecessor Departments have been sending congratulatory messages to centenarians for at least the last 30 years.

Child Poverty Unit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings the Child Poverty Unit has had. [181658]

Mrs. McGuire: The formation of the Child Poverty Unit was announced on 29 October and was established on 12 November. It brings together officials from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families who work side by side.

Members of the Unit have had numerous meetings with lobby, think tank and other stakeholders, as well as attending ministerial meetings. In addition, the Unit held a seminar on tackling child poverty in local areas for local authorities and others, hosted a cross-Whitehall Stakeholder Group meeting, and attended the recent Four Countries meeting, hosted by the Scottish Executive.

Departmental Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171314]

Mrs. McGuire: Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/
ministerial_code_current.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174958]

Mrs. McGuire: There are 11 staff in the parliamentary branch; four deal exclusively with parliamentary questions. Other staff in the parliamentary branch spend a proportion of their time dealing with parliamentary questions equivalent to approximately 50 per cent. of one post. The parliamentary branch does not deal with correspondence from Members or Peers.

Departmental Standards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken towards delivering in its business strategy the six Cs of focusing on the customer, developing our culture, continuous improvement, giving customers choice, extending contestability and establishing a clear distinction between commissioning and delivery roles. [179273]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's business strategy is now being implemented through a DWP Change Programme. The programme aims to provide more integrated services that better meet the needs of our customers; to give greater choice to our customers on how they can access our services and to support our staff in continuously improving processes using lean techniques, ensuring that they provide what is most important to the customer, while cutting out wasteful activities.

The Department has established a new customer insight function to help us to gain a better understanding of our customers' needs and provide a more informed basis for our future service design. A number of locations are trialling the use of lean techniques, while other locations are involved in providing more integrated services for customers who move in and out of work. This work is being taken forward in collaboration with local authorities and HMRC. In addition, the Department is improving the services that are available to our customers over the internet.

Departmental Telephone Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has for the provision of call centres outside the UK. [183621]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has no call centres outside the UK for the provision of its business or internal services.

Employment Schemes: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of all Government employment programmes in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [173753]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Cost of all employment programmes

	£ million
1997-98	294
1998-99	416
1999-2000	626
2000-01	658
2001-02	890
2002-03	924
2003-04	1,034
2004-05	1,160
2005-06	1,092
2006-07	999

Notes:

1. Figures are in nominal terms.
2. Programmes included are: Employment Zones; Working Neighbourhoods Pilot; External Action Teams; Princes Youth Business Trust; Work Based Learning for Adults; European Social Fund; Jobsearch Provision; Incapacity Benefit Reforms; Ambition; Adviser Discretion Fund; Internal Action Teams; Ethnic Minorities Pilot; New Deals; Remploy (see note 6); Work Step; Access to Work; Residential Training Centres; Work Preparation.
3. Not all programmes ran in each year.
4. Information about programme expenditure for Employment Zones, The Prince's Trust, and Working Neighbourhoods is not available prior to 2004-05, and is not included in the figures for earlier years.
5. The figures do not include administration expenditure.
6. Remploy is an executive non-departmental public body, limited by guarantee and, for accounting purposes, a public corporation which publishes its own annual report and accounts and whose net liabilities are guaranteed by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The Jobcentre Plus payment to Remploy included in the figures in the table represents grant in aid to help meet the additional costs associated with supporting large numbers of disabled people

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, and Employment Service annual reports

Employment: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the two tick system in guaranteeing a disabled person with appropriate qualifications an interview for an advertised job. [185104]

Mrs. McGuire: No assessment has been made of how many more people have been guaranteed an interview purely as a result of the disability symbol being awarded. However, once the disability symbol has been awarded it is reviewed annually to make sure employers continue to meet the associated commitments.

As part of the award or review process, employers are asked to explain how they apply their commitment to guarantee interviews (internal and external) for disabled customers and how they make the minimum criteria available to applicants. Where concerns are identified, Jobcentre Plus will work with the employer to resolve these and to strengthen their employment practices. Ultimately, if an employer fails to meet any element of their two ticks commitments, the symbol status is withdrawn.

Industrial Health and Safety: Music

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance he gives to employers on the volume of recorded music broadcast in the workplace; and if he will make a statement; [180369]

(2) what legislative provisions are in place governing the volume of recorded music which may be broadcast in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [180371]

Mrs. McGuire: The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 came into force on 6 April 2006. These regulations require employers to assess the risks to their employees from exposure to noise at work and to reduce these risks to as low a level as is reasonably practicable. The Health and Safety Executive does not provide specific guidance on the volume of recorded music broadcast in the workplace, but HSE's guidance "Controlling noise at work" (ISBN 0717661644) sets out the regulations and provides general guidance for employers on protecting employees from risks caused by noise at work.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department may take in cases where people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance are offered appropriate employment and do not take it. [173754]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 6 February 2007:

The Secretary of State for Employment and Welfare Reform has asked me to reply to your question about what steps his Department may take in cases where people in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance are offered appropriate employment and do not take it. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Where it appears someone has not done enough to find work or is unreasonably restricting their availability for work, the case is referred to an independent decision maker to see if the customer is entitled to Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). A key part of the JSA labour market intervention process is making sure people are aware of, and making best use of, all vacancy sources, e.g. our telephony based service (Jobseeker Direct) and our on-line Internet Job Bank, both of which provide people with fast and easy access to jobs.

Where it is clear, from discussions with the customer that they are actively seeking work and making best use of appropriate vacancy sources, the issue of refusing employment does not tend to arise. However, where someone has been matched and submitted to a specific job, e.g. at one of the more in-depth interviews everyone has with a personal adviser at key stages or with providers of our mandatory contracted provision, and they refuse the offer, the case will be referred to a decision maker and, where good cause cannot be shown, a benefit sanction is applied.

I hope this reply is helpful and assures you of our intent to make sure Jobseekers Allowance is paid only to those who are looking for work and therefore entitled to payment.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants aged 16 to 24 terminated their claim after five months but before six months of making an initial claim in the latest period for which figures are available; and of those how many returned to JSA within *(a)* one week, *(b)* one month, *(c)* three months, *(d)* six months and *(e)* one year of such termination. [173756]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Number of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) terminations aged 16 to 24, who terminated their claim between five and six months, then flowed back on to JSA

		Number of which that flowed on to JSA				
Quarter ending	*Number of JSA terminations*	*Within one week*	*More than a week but less than a month*	*More than a month but less than three months*	*More than three months but less than six months*	*More than six months but less than a year*
August 2005	10,600	1,000	1,600	1,300	1,400	1,200
November 2005	11,000	1,000	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,300
February 2006	8,600	800	1,300	1,300	1,000	700
May 2006	13,000	1,100	1,700	1,800	1,600	1,700
August 2006	11,900	1,100	1,600	1,900	1,200	1,000
November 2006	11,000	900	1,100	2,100	1,100	100
February 2007	9,700	1,000	1,200	1,400	400	n/a
May 2007	10,400	600	1,000	400	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Data commences in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing back on to JSA up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and five per cent. terminations dataset.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants aged 25 or over terminated their claim for JSA after 17 months but before 18 months of making an initial claim in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many returned to JSA within *(a)* one week, *(b)* one month, *(c)* three months, *(d)* six months and *(e)* one year of such termination. [173757]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

Number of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) terminations aged 25 or over who terminated their claim between 17 and 18 months, then flowed on to JSA

		Number of which that flowed on to JSA				
Quarter ending	*Number of JSA terminations*	*Within one week*	*More than a week but less than a month*	*More than a month but less than 3 months*	*More than 3 months but less than 6 months*	*More than 6 months but less than a year*
August 2005	1,700	200	100	200	200	200
November 2005	1,200	0	100	200	100	100
February 2006	1,000	200	100	100	100	100
May 2006	1,700	200	100	300	100	200
August 2006	1,800	300	300	300	100	100
November 2006	1,900	100	200	200	200	100
February 2007	1,900	200	200	200	n/a	n/a
May 2007	1,900	100	100	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Data commence in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing back on to JSA up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 5 per cent terminations dataset

Mercury: Health Hazards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 862-3W, what the outcome of each of the five cases was for the health of the individual concerned. [185009]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE does not have information on the outcome for the health of the individuals previously reported to be affected by mercury poisoning.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign residents successfully applied for national insurance numbers in each London borough in each of the last four years. [181653]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2005-06. The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations in respect of foreign nationals in London local authorities

Local authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
City of London	530	730
Barking and Dagenham	3,200	3,120
Barnet	8,840	9,310
Bexley	1,410	1,570
Brent	15,060	15,600
Bromley	2,130	2,200
Camden	7,780	8,320
Croydon	5,900	6,340
Ealing	15,250	14,300
Enfield	5,030	5,710
Greenwich	5,700	5,820
Hackney	7,640	7,630
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,410	9,310
Haringey	9,580	10,970
Harrow	5,070	5,500
Havering	1,100	1,000
Hillingdon	4,320	4,420
Hounslow	10,600	9,800
Islington	6,790	6,610
Kensington and Chelsea	6,460	7,250
Kingston upon Thames	2,830	2,970
Lambeth	10,460	11,170
Lewisham	6,770	6,840
Merton	6,470	6,680
Newham	14,880	16,160
Redbridge	5,320	5,220
Richmond upon Thames	2,960	2,930
Southwark	9,670	9,690
Sutton	1,680	1,940
Tower Hamlets	10,430	11,800
Waltham Forest	9,990	9,680
Wandsworth	11,420	11,720
Westminster	10,960	11,790

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).
3. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.
5. Years refer to financial years—6 April to 5 April
6. People whose nationality is unknown are included in the table.

Source:
100 per cent. data at 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

New Deal for Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the pre-gateway stage went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173906]

(2) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the gateway stage went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173907]

(3) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the option stage—employment went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173908]

(4) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the option stage—full-time education went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173909]

(5) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the option stage—voluntary sector went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (1) two weeks, (2) three months, (3) six months and (4) one year of leaving the programme in each year since 1997 for which information is available; [173910]

(6) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the option stage (environment task force) went into *(a)* employment, *(b)* employment and benefits, *(c)* benefits—jobseeker's allowance, *(d)* benefits—income support, *(e)* benefits—incapacity benefit, *(f)* benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, *(g)* benefits—other/unknown benefits, *(h)* other known destination and *(i)* off benefits unknown destination within (A) two weeks, (B) three months, (C) six months and (D) one year of leaving the programme for which figures are available in each year since 1997; [173918]

(7) how many New Deal for Young People (NDYP) participants who left the NDYP at the follow through stage whose last option was *(a)* education and training, *(b)* voluntary sector and *(c)* environment task force went into (i) employment, (ii) employment and benefits, (iii) benefits—jobseeker's allowance, (iv) benefits—income support, (v) benefits—incapacity benefit, (vi) benefits—income support and incapacity benefit, (vii) benefits—other/unknown benefits, (viii) other known destination and (ix) off benefits unknown destination within (A) two weeks, (B) three months, (C) six months and (D) one year of leaving the programme for which figures are available in each year since 1997. [173919]

Mr. Timms: The available requested information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Young People: Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much of the expenditure on the new deal for young people was spent on the *(a)* gateway, *(b)* voluntary sector option, *(c)* environmental taskforce option, *(d)* full-time education and training options, *(e)* employment option, *(f)* pre-gateway, *(g)* follow-up and *(h)* other parts of the programme, in each year since 1997; [173895]

(2) how much of the expenditure on the new deal for 25 plus was spent on the *(a)* pre-gateway, *(b)* gateway, *(c)* intensive activity period (i) employment, (ii) basic employability and skills training, (iii) self-employment, (iv) educational and training opportunities, (v) work experience/placements, (vi) training and (vii) other options, (d) follow through and (e) other parts of the programme in each year since 1997. [173896]

Mr. Timms: The available requested information is in the following tables.

Table 1: totals for new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus spend

	Overall total (£ million)
1997-98	12
1998-99	179
1999-2000	353
2000-01	335
2001-02	359
2002-03	388
2003-04	453
2004-05	433
2005-06	322
2006-07	322

Note:

The figures in table 1 represent the totals of the figures in tables 2, 3 and 4.

Table 2: new deal for young people spend

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Voluntary sector	17	37	37	33	25	24	20	18	18
Environmental task force	21	38	38	36	23	23	17	13	13
Gateway								41	40
Full-time education and training	28	35	33	22	18	30	35	29	33
Total	66	110	108	91	66	77	72	101	104

Note:

Figures in table 2 are the available information for separately recorded new deal for young people spend

Table 3: new deal 25 plus spend

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Intensive activity period				27	51	58	50	46	41
Gateway								9	7
Total				27	51	58	50	55	48

Note:

Figures in table 3 are the available information for separately recorded new deal 25 plus spend

Table 4: combined new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus spend

£ million

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Employment option		18	35	22	18	16	13	10	8	7
Self employment		0	1	2	1	2	4	5	5	5
Follow through		0	1	3	3	1	1	0	0	0
Gateway		16	73	66	84	76	97	94		—
Others	12	79	133	134	135	176	203	202	153	158
Total	12	113	243	227	241	271	318	311	166	170

Notes:

1. Table 4 provides combined information for when separate information for the individual programmes is not available
2. Information for the new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus Gateway is only available split between the programmes for 2005-06 and 2006-07
3. Information for employment, self employment, follow-through and the 'others' category is only available as a combined new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus spend
4. Expenditure of £12 million was incurred on the new deal for young people in 1997-98 but is not available split across the requested categories.
5. The new deal 25 plus intensive activity period (IAP) started in 2001
6. A breakdown of spend on all the different elements of the IAP is not available
7. Examples of the expenditure in the 'others' category are: new deal allowances to new deal participants, payments to employers, payments to private sector organisations, Progress2Work support fees and customer travel costs
8. There is no separately recorded spend from the new deal budget on the pre-Gateway stage of new deal
9. Data for information in all tables is to March 2007
10. Totals in all tables may not sum due to rounding

Source:

For data in all tables: Department for Work and Pensions Annual Accounts

New Deal Schemes: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of each New Deal programme in each year since 1997. [173752]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

New deal costs

£ million

	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for young people and new deal 25 plus	New deal 50 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal for disabled people	New deal for partners	Total
1997-98	12					—	—	12
1998-99	162	17			1	—	—	180
1999-2000	282	71	—	1	12	15	—	381
2000-01	293	42	—	45	14	7	1	402
2001-02	219	140		82	9	4	2	456
2002-03	221	167	—	82	18	16	—	504
2003-04	264	189	—	41	20	28	—	542
2004-05	254	179	—	3	24	65	1	526
2005-06	188	134	—	1	26	68	1	418
2006-07	—	—	322	—	41	73	1	437
Total	1,895	939	322	255	165	276	6	3,858

[1] There is no split currently available between new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus for 2006/07. The expenditure has been presented as a combined figure until a final apportionment is made in the departmental report

Notes

1. Spend data includes all new deal programme costs and allowances paid to participants apart from the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. As this is not included, new deal 50 plus costs reduce after 2002/03
2. Expenditure for new deal 50 plus for 2006/07 was under half a million and is thus not shown
3. Following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002/03, ring fences were removed from new deal. Administrative costs are excluded as it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering the costs of each new deal separately from the costs of other labour market activities
4. Expenditure data includes start-up costs
5. Following changes to the new deal 25 plus programme in April 2001 when a mandatory intensive activity period was introduced, programme costs rose significantly
6. Expenditure for new deal for partners in 2002/03 and 2003/04 is not recorded in the table as, excluding administrative costs, costs were around £300,000 for both years *and all figures are rounded to the nearest million.* New deal for partners was re-launched in April 2004
7. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998, new deal 25 plus: July 1998, new deal for lone parents: October 1998, new deal for partners: April 1999, new deal 50 plus: April 2000, new deal for disabled people: July 2001 (new deal for disabled people pilots ran from September 1998-June 2001)
8. Latest figures are to March 2007

Source:

DWP Departmental Reports 2005-06, Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2006/07

New Deal Schemes: Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those returning to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) immediately after a period on the new deal are counted as making two distinct claims for JSA, and how the duration of a claim for JSA is determined. [173898]

Mr. Timms: The monthly Labour Market Statistics published by the Office for National Statistics treat any claim to JSA after a period on one of the full-time new deal options as a new claim. This is in line with long standing practice.

We have been explicit, from the start of our welfare to work interventions in 1998, about how we would measure the duration of JSA claims. The duration of a current JSA claim is determined by comparing the start date of that claim with the count date for the latest month's figures, which is the second Thursday of the month. Where duration is measured over more than one spell, the duration of previous spells is determined by using the start and end dates of each relevant claim.

Since the introduction of the new deal, the number of people experiencing long periods on JSA has improved substantially, regardless of whether this is measured using the duration of continuous spells or by adding up the total time individuals spend in unemployment in more than one spell.

Pension Service: Internet

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the e-forecasting service on the Pension Service website was used to calculate state pension forecasts in each month since May 2007. [175070]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Pensions forecasts utilising e-forecasting service: May to December 2007

	Total
May	11,628
June	10,134
July	8,209
August	2,691
September	2,983
October	4,011
November	5,065
December	3,173
Total	47,894

Notes:

1. The Pensions Act 2007, introduced in July 2007, requires some significant changes to the pension forecasting IT systems. Due to this, the Pension Service is temporarily unable to provide people who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 with a full state pension forecast. This is why the number of web-based forecast requests has reduced since August 2007.
2. People reaching state pension age after 2010 who contact the Pension Service retirement pension forecasting team will still be able to obtain personalised information. Information provided includes details on the number of qualifying years people have accrued, to help with considerations such as the payment of voluntary national insurance contributions, and how the changes to the state pension rules may affect their state pension position.
3. It is expected that the web-based forecasting service will be available in spring 2008.

Source:

MI Real Time Pension Forecasting system provided by EDS

Race Task Force

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what work has been undertaken by the Race Task Force. [177073]

Mrs. McGuire: The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, which is chaired the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform in DWP, brings together Ministers from across Government and key stakeholders to tackle the cross-cutting challenges of narrowing the ethnic minority employment gap.

The task force is supported by an independent advisory group and by four focus groups which work day-to-day on its four current priorities: procurement, local area initiatives, employer engagement and the 2012 Olympics.

Achievements over the last year include: working with city strategy pathfinders to set targets on ethnic minority representation; establishing pilots on public sector procurement, as a means of encouraging contractors to improve their diversity practices; and bringing together employers and ethnic minority women to discuss the challenges faced by ethnic minority women in the labour market.

Over the next 12 months, the work of the task force will include: helping to ensure that the new working neighbourhoods fund makes a difference to the ethnic minority employment gap; and contributing to the Government's response to the report of the Business Commission on Race Equality in the Workplace.

Further information on the work carried out by the Task Force since its inception in 2003 can be accessed at the Task Force website: www.emetaskforce.gov.uk.

The ethnic minority employment gap is now 13.2 per cent. down by 2.8 percentage points since the beginning of the spending review period.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit payments made by his Department were to people living outside the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [181766]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. As at November 2007, the most recent available information, 7.6 per cent. of payments for those benefits which can be paid to people living abroad, were paid to people living abroad. The large majority of payments made abroad are for state retirement pension.

State Retirement Pensions: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average age of entitlement to a state pension was in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181675]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Area	*Average age pension of entitlement to a state*
Romford	62
Essex	62
London	63

Notes:

1. The area of Romford is the parliamentary constituency.
2. The area of Essex is the county council—the figure has been calculated from totalling the relevant local authorities.
3. The area of Greater London is the London Government Office Region.
4. Geographical areas are derived using the relevant Office for National Statistics post code directory.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. on-flows experimental data as at May 2007

Unemployment Benefits: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children lived in families claiming out-of-work benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [180138]

Mr. Timms: Information is not available prior to 2004. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162683, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on ex-prisoners. [171144]

Mr. Timms: My predecessor replied to the hon. Member's question on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 200W.

HEALTH

Blood Donors: Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 991W, on blood: prisoners, (1) what his Department's policy was on blood donations from prisoners in each year from 1978 to 1986; and if he will make a statement; [182618]

(2) what records are kept of communications between his Department and regional transfusion centre directors over blood donations from prisoners in 1980; and if he will make a statement. [182619]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have established that Regional Transfusion Directors in England started to phase out blood collections from prisons from 1980.

The Department has now released, in line with the Freedom of Information Act, all the documents referred to in the reply given on 29 October 2007. These include documents relating to the use of blood from prisoners. These papers are available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_076693

Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to support Brent teaching primary care trust following its financial difficulties; and when the Taylor report on the trust's financial management will be published. [180756]

Mr. Bradshaw: The financial position of Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust (tPCT) is a matter for the local national health service. However, we are informed by NHS London that Brent tPCT entered voluntary turnaround in summer 2006, worked on a detailed plan with KPMG through October and began implementation in November 2006. The current programme is for the 2007-08 financial year and is looking to save £25 million. Plans are currently being worked through to determine the need for future savings in 2008-09.

Regarding the publication of the Taylor report, we are informed by NHS London that the report has not yet been finalised and is going through due process, including taking advice from NHS London's solicitors.

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for *(a)* beginning and *(b)* concluding a consultation on (i) proposals for the next steps in tobacco control and (ii) the further regulation of tobacco products. [183969]

Dawn Primarolo: The consultation on proposals for the next steps in tobacco control and the further regulation of tobacco products will take place during spring 2008. A specific timetable for the consultation has not yet been published.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for launching a national communications campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol; when he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of such a scheme; and by what means. [183971]

Dawn Primarolo: The forthcoming unit campaign to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol will launch in May 2008. For the duration of the campaign the Department will monitor its effectiveness by qualitative and quantitative tracking.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, what the timetable is for rolling out the Sunsmart campaign; when he plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme; by what means; and what timetable he has for gathering more information about sunbed use. [183972]

Dawn Primarolo: Planning is under way for the 2008 SunSmart campaign, the national skin prevention and sun protection project, run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the United Kingdom Health Departments. Evaluation is built into the planning of each year's campaign. The Department is currently working with stakeholders to consider the best way to gather information about the number and distribution of sunbeds and the scale of their use.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in England provide funding for surafenib for patients with *(a)* advanced renal cell cancer and *(b)* liver cancer. [184247]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Care Quality Commission

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission will be responsible for ensuring that recommendations arising out of upheld service user and carer complaints are implemented. [184178]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Complaints are best dealt with locally. An independent view will be available through the ombudsman, but the emphasis should be on effective, local resolution and local implementation of lessons learned. With excellent local arrangements for dealing with complaints, there will be no need for further external consideration and the responses to our recent consultation 'Making Experiences Count' generally supported this approach.

While the Care Quality Commission will not have a direct role in handling or following up individual complaints (other than complaints that fall to be investigated under section 120 of the Mental Health Act 1983), the Commission will need to take account of concerns, complaints and allegations when determining whether services are being provided safely and are of appropriate quality.

This kind of intelligence will feed into the risk assessments the Commission will make when determining the level of scrutiny it should apply to a particular provider.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission will be responsible for regulating assessment of mental health needs in forensic settings. [184180]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Care Quality Commission will take on the functions of the Mental Health Act Commission and will continue to review the use of the Mental Health Act 1983.

In addition, the Department will be consulting shortly on exactly which activities will be regulated by the Care Quality Commission. We would therefore not wish to pre-empt the outcome of that consultation. We would encourage all those with an interest in this area to engage with the Department on this consultation.

Chronically Sick

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of creating long-term conditions networks on the management of patients with long-term conditions. [183555]

Ann Keen: A number of disease specific networks, for example for cancer, diabetes and vascular disease, have been established to improve care and services for people with these conditions. In addition to these, general long-term conditions networks have also been established. Assessment and monitoring of the networks is undertaken at local level.

Community Care: Medical Equipment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist NHS organisations to encourage patients with long-term conditions to report medical information to health care professionals from their homes via *(a)* telephone and *(b)* computer. [183566]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Whole System Long Term Conditions Demonstrators (WSDs) promised in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" will explore the effectiveness of telehealth and telecare in supporting integrated care for those with heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes. As part of the WSDs, the vital signs (for example pulse rate, temperature and blood pressure) of several thousand individuals will be measured over a period of at least a year. To facilitate this, peripherals such as blood pressure monitors will be connected to a telehealth hub (a form of computer sited in the home) that is linked via a telephone line or broadband to systems that are securely monitored by clinicians. The benefits of undertaking these measurements in the home will be assessed by an independent evaluation and these results will help inform the wider uptake of self reported vital signs monitoring from the home.

The reporting of medical information to health professionals via telephone is being pioneered in places across England. For example, the Birmingham OwnHealth Service offers people a personalised programme of health care support over the telephone from a dedicated Care Manager—a fully trained, experienced nurse—who will help people to get the best health outcomes from treatment programmes already agreed with their general practitioner and/or other health care professionals. Recent departmental documents such as "Raising the profile of long term conditions care—a compendium of information" have highlighted such models of care as examples of innovative, forward-thinking initiatives that make a real difference.

Community Hospitals: Hospital Beds

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available in community hospitals in each year since 2003; what proportion of funding of community hospitals is ring-fenced for the provision of beds; what assessment he has made of future levels of bed provision in community hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [180497]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information was collected for the first time in the 2006-07 Estates Returns Information Collection, which identified 6,246 overnight beds available in 229 community hospital sites that submitted returns.

Hospital bed numbers are not driven centrally, but are determined by local needs.

Community Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the additional £30 million he has allocated to the Family Nurse Partnership pilots will be allocated, broken down by *(a)* area and *(b)* financial year; [184519]

(2) when his Department expects to have completed its evaluation of its Family Nurse Partnership pilots; [184520]

(3) in which areas the Family Nurse Partnership pilots are being held; and to which other areas the pilot scheme will be extended. [184522]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The comprehensive spending review 2007 contains the provision of £30 million to support the future expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership: £5 million in 2008-09, £10 million in 2009-10 and £15 million in 2010-11. It is not yet possible to indicate breakdown by areas.

Evaluation of the pilot phase of the Family Nurse Partnership is expected to be completed in spring 2009.

The Family Nurse Partnership Pilot Project is currently running on 10 sites in England—Barnsley, Derby City, County Durham and Darlington, Manchester, Slough, Somerset, south east Essex, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Walsall.

The 2008-09 bidding round to increase the number of sites testing and delivering the Family Nurse Partnership intervention in England is currently underway. We expect to announce the results of this process by the end of March 2008.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the Care Quality Commission maintains at least the same frequency of visits to detained mental health patients as undertaken by the Mental Health Act Commission. [184177]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) places great emphasis on its visiting programme, covering each hospital and each ward that accepts detained patients. The Care Quality Commission will take on the functions of the MHAC and we expect the Care Quality Commission to continue the good work of MHAC in safeguarding the rights of those detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

Dementia: Expenditure

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government funding was provided for medical research into dementia in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the health research budget this represented in each year. [184620][1]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent information available is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on dementia research

	Department of Health (£ million)	*Medical Research Council (MRC) (£ million)*	*Total (£ million)*	*Expenditure as a percentage of NHS research and development and MRC budgets*
2001-02	2.9	6.6	9.5	n/a
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2	n/a
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5	n/a
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2	2.4
2005-06	18.3	6.7	25	2.3

n/a = not available

The Departmental figures for the years from 2001-02 to 2003-04 relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually at that time to NHS providers and spent on dementia research. Information was not collected prior to 2004-05.

1.*[Official Report, 20 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 9MC.]*

The national research network on dementia and neurodegenerative disease, funded by the Department's National Institute for Health Research, was launched in August 2006. Its first year costs are included in the Department's aggregate expenditure figure for 2005-06.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is actively recruiting international medical graduates and European doctors in shortage specialties. [181170]

Ann Keen: No. The Department is not actively recruiting migrant doctors to fill posts in shortage specialties.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* drug and *(c)* gambling addictions by a GP in England in the last five years. [183892]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

However, the 'Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project' (ANARP) provided a snapshot of general practitioner (GP) outcomes in 2003-04.

> ANARP showed that, of their patients, GPs identified one in 28 males and one in 20 females as alcohol dependent; and
>
> not all dependent drinkers visit their GP, so this statistic does not reflect on the level of dependency in the population as a whole, estimated by ANARP at 6 per cent. for males and 2 per cent., for females.

Family Practitioner Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects *(a)* blood tests, *(b)* electrocardiograms and *(c)* ultrasound to be available on demand in GPs' surgeries; [178032]

(2) how much he has set aside in each financial year until 2010-11 to make *(a)* blood tests, *(b)* electrocardiograms and *(c)* ultrasound available on demand in GP practices. [178307]

Mr. Bradshaw: Many general practitioner surgeries already offer blood tests and electrocardiograms, and some offer ultrasounds and other diagnostic tests. Primary care trusts should decide locally the best setting to provide these services to meet the needs of their patients.

As a result of the recent comprehensive spending review, the national health service will receive real terms increases of 4 per cent. per year over the next three years. This is significantly higher than the long term trend, and will take NHS funding to around £110 billion by 2010-11.

Food: Consumption

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the recommended daily calorie intake for *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and what plans he has to review these recommendations. [184283]

Dawn Primarolo: In 1991, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) set estimated average requirements (EAR) for energy for the United Kingdom population. Currently, the EAR for adult men is set at around 2550kcal per day and for women it is set at around 1940kcal per day.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), who replaced COMA in 2001 and advise Government on nutrition issues, is currently reviewing the energy requirements of the UK population. It is planned that the draft SACN report will go out for public consultation towards the end of the year.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which consumers utilise the nutritional information panel on food packaging. [184557]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has undertaken four research projects since 2001 which investigated how consumers use nutrition information provided on food labels. Copies of all reports are available on the agency's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodlabelling/researchandreports/

and

www.food.gov.uk/foodlabelling/signposting/signpostlabelresearch/:

The agency's annual consumer attitudes survey tracks consumers' reported usage of nutrition information including fat, saturated fat, sugars and salt.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* assaults and *(b)* incidents of verbal abuse of GPs which resulted in a patient being removed from a GP practice in each year since 2000, broken down by strategic health authority area. [183367]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients physically removed from general practitioner (GP) practices is not available.

The Information Centre for health and social care collects figures on the numbers of patients removed from GP lists due to an act or threat of violence. This information for the years 1999-2000 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
North East	60	56	49	62	37	58	50
North West	234	242	269	332	213	207	267
Yorkshire and the Humber	152	150	127	182	128	112	135
East Midlands	46	71	71	70	78	67	66

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
West Midlands	70	76	118	146	86	74	84
East of England	103	185	152	156	142	129	170
London	169	240	320	222	176	239	224
South East Coast	57	90	60	80	81	66	63
South Central	38	68	67	59	61	52	39
South West	59	70	88	75	79	97	92
Total	988	1,248	1,321	1,384	1,081	1,101	1,190

Note:

1999-2000 and 2000-01 regional data was supplied by health authorities that no longer exist. Figures for these years have been mapped to current strategic health authority areas.

General Practitioners: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many general practitioners are practising in Colchester constituency; and how many were practising in May 1997; [180363]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest number of patients registered per general practitioner in (i) Colchester constituency and (ii) Essex was in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent period for which figures are available. [180364]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested.

Table 1 shows the number of general practitioners (GPs) in the North Essex Health Authority area as at 1 October 1997 (of which Colchester was a part) and in North East Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 30 September 2006 (of which Colchester is now a part). The figures listed do not include retainers and registrars.

Table 2 shows the total number of practices, number of GPs, number of registered patients, average GP list size, average practice list size, largest practice list size and smallest practice list size as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2006 for the whole of Essex and the relevant authorities covering the Colchester constituency. The information is split between the former North Essex Health Authority (HA) (of which Colchester was part) and the current North East Essex PCT (of which Colchester is a part).

Due to various mergers and demergers of health authorities and PCTs, the data are not comparable.

Table 1

	Number of GPs at 1 October 1997	Number at 30 September 2006
North Essex Health Authority	473	n/a
North East Essex PCT	n/a	181

n/a = data not available

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Table 2: Selected GP statistics for selected area as at 1997 and 2006

	Number (headcount) 1997	2006
Total Essex[1]		
Total practices	284	267
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	821	1,014
Registered patients	1,603,543	1,700,408
Average GP list size	1,953	1,677
Average practice list size[3]	5,646	6,369
Largest practice list size[3]	18,728	23,895
Smallest practice list size[3]	308	410
North Essex HA		
Total practices	138	n/a
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	473	n/a
Registered patients	877,555	n/a
Average GP list size	1,855	n/a
Average practice list size[3]	6,359	n/a
Largest practice list size[3]	17,105	n/a
Smallest practice list size[3]	308	n/a
North East Essex primary care trust		
Total practices	n/a	42
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	n/a	181
Registered patients	n/a	309,921
Average GP list size	n/a	1,712
Average practice list size[3]	n/a	7,379
Largest practice list size[3]	n/a	15,219
Smallest practice list size[3]	n/a	1,945

n/a = data not available

[1] Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years covering Essex.

[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others.

[3] GP Census collects the number of patients who are registered to a practice rather than a specific GP, therefore it is not possible to ascertain individual GP list sizes.

Note:

Data as at 1 October 1997, 30 September 2006.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the level of funding provided to GPs to cover practice running costs changed in each year since 1996. [180605]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total and change in the level of funding provided by Primary Care Organisations and their predecessor bodies (Health Authorities (HAs)) to general practice since 1996 is contained in the following tables.

Table 1: Former general practitioners contract—independent contractors total cost 1996-97 to 2003-04

£ million

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Total spend	2,873	3,033	3,158	3,432	3,624	3,714	4,060	4,623
Annual increase	—	160	125	274	192	90	346	563
Cumulative increase	—	160	285	559	751	841	1,187	1,750

Table 2: New GMS contract practice based total cost 2004-05 to 2006-07

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total spend	6,957	7,734	7,757
Annual increase	2,334	777	23
Cumulative increase	4,084	4,861	4,884

Notes:

1. 1996 to 2001-02 data taken from the 95 England health authorities based on GPs' total reported contract costs. From 2002-03 onwards all data is PCT based.
2. All former GP Contract 1996-97 to 2003-04 Independent Contractor spend includes both combined General Medical Services Discretionary and Non-Discretionary Spend and Personal Medical Services
3. 1996 to 2003-04 former GP contract data taken from the audited summarised NHS accounts of the 95 health authorities and subsequent 303 PCTs for England.
4. The new GP contract was introduced 2004 and is all discretionary only funded through PCTs unified allocations.
5. All spend (2004 to 2006-07) is now based on combined practice contracting routes of GMS, PMS APMS and PCTMS services
6. 2004-05 to 2006-07 Figures are based on the audited returns of the 303 to 152 reconfigured PCT audited returns to the NHS summarised accounts.

General Practitioners: Pay

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP practice support staff are paid in accordance with national pay scales; and what guidance his Department issues to GPs on remuneration for practice support staff. [180606]

Mr. Bradshaw: General practitioners (GPs), as independent practitioners contracted to the national health service are able to determine the terms and conditions for the staff they employ. However, the expectation is that GP practices will ensure their employment standards comply with good human resources practice in line with Agenda for Change national pay scales/principles. Guidance on Agenda for Change for practice staff can be found on the DH website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingpay/Agendaforchange/DH_4123596

Health Checks: Adults

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of adults who will have preventative health check-ups in their GP's surgery in each of the next three years. [180341]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of adults who receive preventative check-ups in general practitioner (GP) surgeries is not collected centrally.

The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that proposals were under development for a vascular risk programme. This will include to estimate the amount of preventative work currently carried out by GP surgeries and the impact of the introduction of a vascular screening programme.

Health Services: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* GPs, *(d)* GP practice nurses, *(e)* nurse practitioners, *(f)* modern matrons, *(g)* community matrons and (h) NHS managers were employed by the NHS in North Devon in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [183086]

Ann Keen: The information requested is held at national health service trust level only.

The following table shows the data held for Devon Primary Care Trust (PCT) and North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust which serve the North Devon area. 1997 data are only available for North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust. Latest available data are for 2006. Data are not available for Devon PCT prior to 2001 because this area was covered by North and East Devon Health Authority (HA) and South and West Devon HA. These figures are not comparable to the 2001 onwards structures.

Over 1.33 million people were employed in the NHS in England as at September 2006. Between September 1997 and 2006 the total number of NHS staff increased by over 280,000 (27 per cent.); the number of doctors and hospital dentists employed in the NHS in England increased by 35,993 (40per cent.) to 125,612; the number of nurses employed in the NHS in England increased by 79,479 (25 per cent.) to 398,335; and the total number of qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff employed in the NHS in England increased by 38,200 (40 per cent.) to 134,498.

We are now moving away from year-on-year growth in the NHS work force to more of a steady state where there is a closer match between demand and supply. The focus now is strengthening frontline capacity through increases in productivity and skill mix. In some cases, productivity gains may mean that fewer staff are needed to deliver the same service outcomes.

All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, medical and dental staff[1], GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2], GP practice nurses and NHS managers in specified organisations, 1997 to 2006

Number (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Devon Primary Care Trust										
All Doctors	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	490	510	538	571	590	639
Of which:										
Medical and Dental staff[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	39	42	41	38	37

All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, medical and dental staff[1], GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2], GP practice nurses and NHS managers in specified organisations, 1997 to 2006

Number (headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	463	471	496	530	552	602
Qualified Nursing, Midwifery and Health visiting staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,045	1,353	1,355	1,431	1,482	1,542
Of which:										
Modern Matrons	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	3
Community Matrons	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
GP Practice Nurses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	369	386	353	360	380	393
Managers and senior managers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	64	115	145	171	197	198
North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust										
Medical and Dental staff[1]	118	133	132	132	170	132	139	163	182	187
Qualified Nursing, Midwifery and Health visiting staff	760	832	785	792	468	511	583	603	571	560
Of which:										
Modern Matrons	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Community Matrons	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Managers and senior managers	24	20	22	24	22	24	25	32	35	42

n/a= Not applicable

[1] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals

[2] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others

Note:

1. On 1 October 2006 East Devon PCT, Exeter PCT, Mid Devon PCT, North Devon PCT, South Hams and West Devon PCT and Teignbridge PCT merged to form Devon PCT. Figures from 2001 to 2005 are an aggregate of these six predecessor organisations. Prior to 2001 this area was covered by North and East Devon HA and South and West Devon HA. These figures are not comparable to the 2001 onwards structures.
2. The number of Modern Matrons were not separately identifiable from the census data prior to 2005, and community matrons prior to 2006.
3. In 2001 there was a large drop in community nursing staff in North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, and a corresponding increase in the Devon PCT predecessor organisations.
It is reasonable to assume that community services nurses migrated from North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to these organisations.
4. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
3. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Hepatitis

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provided to the "FaCe It" campaign on hepatitis C in each year since 2004; what steps he has taken to promote the campaign to *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* acute trusts and *(c)* strategic health authorities in England; how his Department has monitored the effectiveness of the campaign; and what recent meetings his Department has held with (i) patient groups, (ii) healthcare professionals, (iii) NHS bodies, (iv) community groups and (v) other stakeholders on developing the campaign. [183770]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on funding provided by the Department for the "FaCe It" campaign is shown in the following table.

FaCe It campaign expenditure by financial year, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000 to the nearest £10,000)*
2003-04	150
2004-05	690
2005-06	1,280
2006-07	1,900
2007-08 (Forecast)	2,980
Total	7,000

The "FaCe It" campaign has used a range of communication methods to promote awareness of hepatitis C to health care professionals, including:

information packs for health care professionals including guidance on testing for hepatitis C;

a quick reference guide on hepatitis C for primary care;

a new NHS hepatitis C website, including a section for health care professionals;

features in health care professional journals;

exhibition stands at conferences for health care professionals; and

meetings with local health care professionals and other stakeholders, as part of a regional hepatitis C awareness event that has visited about 30 cities in England.

A range of methods are being used to assess the effectiveness of the campaign, including:

epidemiological surveillance of hepatitis C testing and diagnosis by the Health Protection Agency (HPA);

research into levels of awareness and related issued among health care professionals and the public;

number of visits to the campaign website;

number of calls to the Hepatitis C Information Line; and

extent of media coverage.

Departmental officials or the "FaCe It" campaign team at Munro and Forster, which is acting for the Department, have held a range of meetings with stakeholders since January 2007 including:

Patient groups

British Liver Trust

Hepatitis C Trust

Mainliners Hepatitis C Resource Centre

National Hepatitis C Network

Health care professionals and national health service bodies

regional and local stakeholders in Barnsley, Bradford, Colchester, Dudley, Exeter, Ipswich, Isle of Wight, Maidstone, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, and Oxford[1].

Royal College of General Practitioners

Royal College of Nursing

Community groups

Association of the British Hujjaj UK

South Asian Health Foundation

Other stakeholders

HPA

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse

[1] These meetings may have included representation from local voluntary and community groups.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2230W, on hospitals: waiting lists, what social reasons may be used for suspending patients from the Korner waiting list. [184469]

Mr. Bradshaw: Patients may be suspended from an in-patient waiting list for two reasons

they are medically unfit for treatment; and

they are unavailable for admission for a specified period of time (also known as a social suspension).

Social suspensions can be made for a variety of reasons, where the patient indicates they are unavailable for admission. These can include

work commitments (e.g. patient too busy at work to have operation);

holidays (e.g. patient wants to wait until after they return from holiday); and

family commitments (e.g. caring for relative, need to arrange child care).

In such cases, patients can be suspended from the waiting list for the period of time they are unavailable, after which they return to the list at the point they left it.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Inspections

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports of occurrences inconsistent with routine patient care were made to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority by Professor Alison Murdoch in each year of her tenure as an inspector; and how many serious incidents were reported to the Authority. [181154]

Dawn Primarolo: The definition of the type of incident that would be considered to be serious and, therefore, likely to be inconsistent with routine treatment, was introduced on 5 July 2007 when the 7th edition of the "Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) code of practice" was published. The HFEA has advised me that, in accordance with its policy to encourage licensed clinics to reports incidents, including those occurrences that would be considered to be near misses, it does not disclose the names of clinics that have reported an adverse incident nor the number of incidents reported by a particular clinic.

The HFEA introduced its incident alert reporting system in 2003, requiring licensed establishments to report any adverse incident relating to treatment services that is potentially harmful or actually causes harm to any person, embryos, gametes or staff. The number of incidents handled has been included each year in the HFEA's annual report:

HFEA incident alert system: number of incidences handled since 2002-03[1]

	Number
2002-03	65
2003-04	79
2004-05	71
2005-06	97
2006-07[2]	224

[1] Numbers cover all licensed clinics that have submitted a report.

[2] The most recent year for which a report has been published.

Source:

HFEA annual reports 2003-04 to 2006-07.

HFEA has worked with clinics to encourage greater reporting, including lower risk incidents and events that are categorised as near misses. This is to ensure that that lessons learned from such events can be circulated to other clinics, so avoiding a repeat elsewhere in the sector. The HFEA attributes the increase, from 97 incidents in 2005-06 to 224 in 2006-07, to more comprehensive reporting by clinics.

Local Involvement Networks

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to promote the involvement of patients and the public in monitoring the effectiveness of services provided for the NHS by the *(a)* third and *(b)* private sector; [183800]

(2) if he will ensure that the Local Involvement Network Regulations 2008 include provisions requiring private sector providers of health and social care to allow members of local involvement networks to enter their premises for the purpose of monitoring the quality of health and social care. [183802]

Ann Keen: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 set out important new arrangements for the involvement of patients and the public in health and social care, including local involvement networks (LINks). LINks will enable local people to monitor local services irrespective of who provides them.

LINks will build on the work of voluntary and community sector groups and enable genuine involvement of a far greater number of people than is currently available, ensuring local communities have a stronger voice in the process of commissioning health and social care and enabling them to influence key decisions about the services they both use and pay for.

In order to ensure that independent sector providers—be they from the private or third-sector—cooperate with LINks, we will make directions requiring primary care trusts and local authorities to ensure that their contracts with the independent and third sectors allow LINks entry to appropriate premises and access to appropriate information. This will ensure that LINks will have the same levels of access as they do in the public sector.

These changes are aimed at promoting open and transparent communication between communities and the health service, and will develop trust and confidence, increasing accountability to local people.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure members of local involvement networks (LINKs) are indemnified by his Department in relation to activities undertaken on behalf of a LINk in good faith. [183803]

Ann Keen: It will be for local authorities to determine their own policies regarding local involvement networks (LINks) and indemnity. Authorities may choose to indemnify certain LINks members directly or stipulate that host organisations must make arrangements to do so as part of their LINks contracts.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure members of local involvement networks are paid appropriate expenses by the host. [183804]

Ann Keen: It will be for each local involvement network (LINk) to determine its own policy regarding payment and reimbursement. However, we will remind LINks and host organisations that the Department's 'Reward and Recognition' document, provides a useful guide for service providers, users and carers on the principles and practice of service user payment and reimbursement in health and social care.

A copy of the document is available in the Library and also on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4138523

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that local involvement networks are provided with funds to establish regional and national networks and the means to monitor effectively *(a)* cancer, *(b)* mental health, *(c)* ambulance and *(d)* other services commissioned on a (i) regional and (ii) national basis. [183805]

Ann Keen: While local involvement networks (LINks) will be independent and will have the power to develop their own priorities and agendas, they will need to develop relationships with a number of stakeholders to fulfil their statutory role effectively. In certain circumstances, LINks may want to work in partnership to monitor services provided by, for example, cancer networks, mental health services, ambulance trusts or other services commissioned across more than one Local Authority boundary. LINks may also wish to work together in regional groups, or even nationally to share experience and findings. There is nothing to prevent LINks using some of their funding to establish local, regional or national networks if they so wish.

Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRI scanners there were in the NHS in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [182545]

Ann Keen: At the end of December 1997, there were 110 MRI scanners in the national health service in England. By December 2007, this had increased to 285.

Maternity Services

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide more flexible maternity services for women, including *(a)* one-to-one support from pregnancy through to birth and *(b)* improving the quality of post-natal care. [182746]

Ann Keen: In April 2007, we published "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", which outlines a national framework for the local delivery of high quality, safe and accessible services that are both women-focused and family centred. This document introduces four national choice guarantees for women around access, antenatal care, place of birth and post-natal care. It also says that every woman will be supported by a midwife that she knows and trusts throughout her pregnancy and afterwards. It highlights how commissioners, providers and maternity professionals can shape provision to meet the needs of women and their families and includes a self-assessment tool for commissioners to identify the needs of their population. That tool will help primary care trusts and national health service trusts respectively to commission and to provide the services that the women in its catchment area need.

Midwives: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives are employed by *(a)* Barnet Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust and *(c)* the Royal Free

Hospital; how many midwifery vacancies there are in each organisation; and if he will make a statement on progress on recruitment to fill such vacancies. [179012]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of midwives employed and national health service three month vacancies at Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS Trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust. The table shows the latest information available for the number of midwives employed (September 2006) and the number of vacancies (March 2007).

NHS London has advised that Barnet Primary Care Trust does not employ any midwives as midwifery services are provided from the acute trusts.

Progress on recruitment to fill vacancies is a matter for local determination as local workforce planners are best placed to assess the healthcare needs of their local population.

However, we have been informed by NHS London that Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust ran a successful recruitment campaign for additional midwives in October 2007. The first new midwives commenced work in November 2007.

We have been further informed that the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust is currently running a recruitment campaign for midwives. If further midwifery cover is needed, the trust has an escalation policy where it can relocate midwives from other parts of the service and can also use its in-house bank staff.

NHS three month vacancies in each specified organisation for qualified midwifery staff. Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff

	March 2007		September 2006	
	Three month vacancy rate (percentage)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	0	181	243
Barnet PCT	0	0	0	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1.9	2	101	131

Notes:
1. Vacancy data is from the vacancies survey 2007.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2007.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the non-medical workforce census September 2006.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
7. Staff in post data is from the non-medical workforce census September 2006.
8. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
9. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates. Strategic health authority figures are based on trusts, and do not necessarily reflect the geographical provision of healthcare.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey, March 2007.

NHS Treatment Centres

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to announce a strategy on the future funding of NHS walk-in centres; whether in preparing that strategy he will consider the potential for walk-in centres to be funded by *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* others; and if he will make a statement. [183567]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 31 January 2008]*: The Department continues to look at options for future funding of community based walk-in services. Any proposals to change current arrangements where services are commissioned by national health service primary care trusts and funded from their main allocations will be considered as part of the Primary and Community Strategy and Next Stage Review.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head of the population on health provision *(a)* in Wiltshire, *(b)* in Hampshire, *(c)* in Northumberland, *(d)* in London, *(e)* in Gloucestershire and *(f)* in Oxfordshire in each of the last five years; and what will be spent in each area in each of the next five years. [180099]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold the information in the format requested because national health service expenditure is not collected on the basis of counties. However, the total expenditure per head of population within relevant strategic health authority (SHA) areas is contained in the following table. The table goes up only to 2006-07 as the Department does not hold these figures for future years.

£ per head

SHA area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	1,090.03	1,198.01	1,345.02	1,464.42	1,556.50
London	1,186.72	1,315.78	1,441.33	1,531.01	1,537.80
South Central	821.71	987.84	1,103.16	1,168.58	1,211.26
South West	908.44	1,048.08	1,166.40	1,267.68	1,306.85

Notes:
1. Expenditure by SHA area is taken as the total expenditure of the SHA and of PCTs within the SHA area.
2. Expenditure shown does not include all NHS expenditure within the area. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded from the figures. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.
3. Figures for Wiltshire and Gloucestershire are contained within those shown for the South West SHA area, Hampshire and Oxfordshire within the South Central SHA area, and Northumberland within the North East SHA area.

Sources:
1. Audited SHA summarisation forms 2002-03 to 2006-07
2. Audited primary care trust (PCT) summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2006-07
3. Office of National Statistics unweighted population figures

NHS: Finance

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the market forces factor for NHS trusts; and if he will make a statement. [184446]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula. ACRA's current work programme includes a review of the market forces factor (MFF). The review of the MFF will also inform the MFF adjustments made to providers of national health service services paid for through the national tariff.

Only when this work programme is completed will ACRA finalise its recommendations to Ministers on potential changes to the funding formula. Ministers will then look at all of ACRA's recommendations and decide how to take these recommendations into account when making allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

We will inform providers and PCTs of the changes to the formula and the revenue allocations as soon as is practically possible after the completion of ACRA's work programme. The aim is to announce revenue allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by the summer 2008. The MFF indices applied to providers of NHS services paid for by the national tariff were published on the Department's website on 13 December 2007 as part of the national tariff package for 2008-09 which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/NHSFinancialReforms/DH_081238

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what formula is used to determine the market forces factor. [184841]

Mr. Bradshaw: A detailed technical breakdown of how the market forces factor is generated can be found in 'Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Fifth edition)'. A copy of this document is available in the Library and also on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4112065

NHS: Fire Prevention

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations failed fire risk assessments in each of the last five years. [184291]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations are required to comply with fire safety legislation as set out in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which came into effect on 1 October 2006. As part of full compliance with these regulations, it is a requirement that a fire risk assessment is undertaken. In their Annual Statement of Fire Safety, the most recently available of which covers the year to 31 December 2006, five NHS organisations stated that they had enforcement action taken against them by their local fire authorities for failing to provide a proper fire risk assessment within the terms of the legislation.

The NHS organisations in question were:

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust;
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust;
Liverpool Primary Care Trust; and
Redbridge Primary Care Trust.

Information on the number of NHS organisations failing to undertake fire risk assessments in the four-year period prior to 2006 was not collected centrally.

NHS: Older Workers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age was of *(a)* GPs, *(b)* consultants, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* midwives in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many from each group he expects to retire in the next 10 years. [182850]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the average age of general practitioners (GPs), consultants, nurses and midwives.

	Average age
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	46
Medical and Dental consultants	47
Qualified nursing staff (excluding midwives)	44
Qualified midwives	42

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census.

Under age discrimination legislation there is a default retirement age of 65 but many national health service organisations do not set a retirement age. Most NHS staff including GPs and consultants have a normal pension age of 60 but the average age at which this group take their pension on age grounds is nearly 63. Nurses and midwives who were members of the NHS pension scheme before 1995 have a normal pension age of 55 but an average retirement age on age grounds of 59.

NHS: Public Participation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to increase the budget for local involvement networks to reflect the increased number of activities undertaken by such networks; and if he will make a statement. [183744]

Ann Keen: The Department received an allocation of £84 million over three years from HM Treasury to fund the establishment and costs incurred by local involvement networks and has no plans to bid for any further funds. The allocations to local authorities (LAs) were based on two elements used in many similar cases to take account of key geographical factors such as deprivation, sparsity, area costs, etc. The first was a general baseline payment of £60,000 awarded to each local authority. The second was calculated according to the Relative Needs Formula, which is used to allocate funding to LAs in other areas of work.

NHS: Reorganisation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the Darzi reviews of the NHS are informed by patient and public involvement; [182899]

(2) if he will meet members of the National Association of Patients' Forums to discuss effective patient and public involvement in his reviews of the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [182900]

Ann Keen: The national health service "Our NHS, our future" Next Stage Review is primarily a local process. Eight clinical pathway groups in each strategic health authority (SHA) region are considering how to improve models of care across eight pathways from maternity and newborn care to end of life care. Local events are being held to ensure that the views and experiences of the public and patients inform the thinking of each clinical working group.

Nationally, a second nationwide day of consultative events was held on 24 January 2008 to test the emerging findings of the clinical pathway groups with around 1,000 staff, patients and the public across the regions. The findings from the consultation events will contribute to each SHA's vision for healthcare due to be published in the spring.

An online questionnaire has also been launched to capture the views of patients and the public. This is available on the review's website:

www.nhs.uk/ournhs

With the establishment of Local Involvement Networks (LINks) in England from April 2008, there will be a strengthened voice for local communities. The Next Stage Review will work closely with the local networks as a key stakeholder and vehicle for engagement at a local level.

Officials responsible for the policy on LINks recently met with the chair and other representatives of the National Association of Patients' Forums to discuss LINk regulations which are due to be published in the spring.

Non-Ionizing Radiation: Health Hazards

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has commissioned on the effects of non-ionising radiation on health. [184892]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned, either directly or through the Health Protection Agency, research on the effects of non-ionising radiation in the following areas:

exposure to radiofrequency fields including mobile telephones, terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) and WiFi;

studies to examine the potential cellular and behavioural effects of radio frequency fields;

measurement of exposures to power frequency fields for population studies of the health effects of power frequency exposures including the United Kingdom childhood cancer study and UK adult brain tumour study;

laboratory studies of the effects of power frequency fields on cells;

development of realistic three dimensional (voxel) models for male, female, and pregnant female, to allow assessment of exposures from electromagnetic field sources at various frequencies;

real-time measurement of ambient levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation throughout the UK;

studies to examine the effects of different frequencies of UV light on melanocytes and melanoma cells;

measurement of the protection afforded by clothing, shade structures, and UV protective gloves;

assessment of emissions and safety of products such as lasers, compact fluorescent light bulbs, projects for interactive whiteboards and other consumer products;

the Department's Radiation Protection Research (RPR) programme includes both ionising radiation and non-ionising radiation research at power frequencies and intermediate frequencies. Information on the current RPR programme research strategy and research projects can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082096;

the independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry, was set up in 2001 in response to a recommendation in the Stewart report (the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (www.iegmp.org.uk). MTHR has supported a number of studies into the possible health effects of radiofrequency technology relating both to base stations and hand-held mobile telephones. The MTHR programme published its first report in September 2007 www.mthr.org.uk. None of the 23 individual studies funded under this programme to date demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones or base stations; and

the Department additionally has provided an annual contribution to the World Health Organisation International (WHO) Electromagnetic Fields Project since its inception in 1996. Information on this project can be found on the WHO website at:

www.who.int/peh-emf/project/en/

Northwick Park Hospital: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made with implementing plans to modernise Northwick Park Hospital. [179017]

Mr. Bradshaw: The local national health service is responsible for the provision of services at Northwick Park hospital.

However, we have been informed by NHS London that proposals for the future of services across North West London, including Northwick Park hospital, are currently under review in the light of the London wide review of services (Healthcare for London) and the North West London review of services, which is being led by local primary care trusts.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the £372 million funding announced for promoting the achievement and maintenance of healthy weight over the period 2008 to 2011 will be spent, broken down by *(a)* programme and *(b)* financial year; [184526]

(2) how much funding he has allocated per annum for the annual assessment of progress on policies to reduce obesity. [184529]

Dawn Primarolo: The total amount of funding that is being made available for the obesity programme is broken down over the next three years as £94 million for 2008-09, £123 million for 2009-10 and £155 million for 2010-11. Some of this money is for central programmes, and we have already announced that £30 million is being used for the Healthy Community Challenge fund and £75 million for marketing both over 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The exact breakdown of funding for other central programmes has yet to be agreed.

In addition, a large proportion of funding will go directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of their general allocations. General PCT allocations are not broken down by programme. It will be for the national health service to decide locally how best to deliver the outcomes of the "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A cross-Government Strategy for England", published January 2008, in line with their local circumstances, including the level of resources required to do so.

Also, the exact cost for annually assessing the progress of policies to reduce obesity has yet to be determined. It will, however, be met from within the overall £372 million we have made available for the programme.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* four to five and *(b)* 10 to 11-year-olds were (i) overweight and (ii) obese in each year since 2005, broken down by sex, as measured by the National Child Measurement Programme. [184284]

Dawn Primarolo: No data for 2006-07 are available until the latest National Child Measurement Programme report is published at the end of February 2008.

The results for 2005-06 are shown in the following tables.

Table 1. Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children in Year R, by sex, England, 2005-06

		Overweight		*Obese*		*Overweight and obese combined*	
	Total number of children measured	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]
Female	145,200	17,800	12.3 (12.1-12.4)	13,300	92 (9.0-9.3)	31,100	21.4 (21.2-21.6)
Male	152,400	20,400	13.4 (13.2-13.6)	16,400	10.7 (10.6-10.9)	36,800	24.1 (23.9-24.3)
Both sexes combined	297,600	38,200	12.8 (12.7-13.0)	29,700	10.0 (9.9-10.1)	67,900	22.8 (22.7-23.0)

[1] 95 per cent. confidence intervals are shown in brackets

Table 2. Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children in Year 6, by sex, England, 2005-06

		Overweight		*Obese*		*Overweight and obese combined*	
	Total number of children measured	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*[1]
Female	115,400	15,900	13.8 (13.6-14.0)	17,800	15.4 (15.2-15.6)	33,700	29.2 (29.0-29.5)
Male	125,400	17,300	13.8 (13.6-14.0)	23,800	18.9 (18.7-19.2)	41,100	32.7 (32.5-33.0)
Both sexes combined	240,800	33,200	13.8 (13.7-13.9)	41,600	17.3 (17.1-17.4)	74,800	31.1 (30.9-31.2)

[1] 95 per cent. confidence intervals are shown in brackets

Due to poor participation in 2005-06, the validity of these results is limited and they should be interpreted with caution. The best available information we have at the moment is from the Health Survey for England 2006, which showed the following for children aged 5 and 10 years.

Health survey for England 2006, Boys/girls aged 5/10, prevalence of overweight and obesity

	Percentage
Boys aged 5	
Overweight	11.0
Obese	19.0
Girls aged 5	
Overweight	13.0
Obese	14.0
Boys aged 10	
Overweight	11.0
Obese	21.0
Girls aged 10	
Overweight	17.0
Obese	18.0

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* income threshold and *(b)* capital allowance is above which people are requested to pay prescription charges. [184543]

Dawn Primarolo: Anyone who is required to pay national health service prescription charges, in England, may make a claim for entitlement to free prescriptions under the NHS low income scheme.

Anyone who has capital of more than £16,000 (or £21,500 if they live permanently in a care home) will not be eligible for free prescriptions under this scheme.

The income threshold for entitlement to free prescriptions under this scheme will vary according to personal circumstances. Anyone whose capital is below the amounts set out may have their eligibility for free prescriptions calculated on the basis of a comparison between their income and their requirements. This calculation is based on income support provisions as set out in the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (as amended) and the National Health Service (Travel Expenses and Remission of Charges) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

Some people on a low income will be eligible for free prescriptions without having to make a separate claim under the NHS low income scheme. People receiving working tax credit, with a disability or severe disability element or with child tax credit, whose gross annual taxable income is £15,050 or less are not required to pay prescription charges. There is no upper capital threshold in this case. People receiving income support, income based jobseeker's allowance or pension credit guarantee credit (in respect of partners under 60) are also entitled to free prescriptions. The income and capital thresholds will be those appropriate to those benefits.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the total prescription charge income came from pre-payment certificates in each of the last three financial years; and what the projected income is from that source in each of the next three financial years; [184546]

(2) how many people applied for a pre-payment certificate for a prescription in each of the last three financial years; and how many he expects to do so in the next three financial years. [184548]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is given in the following table. Projections for the next three financial years are not available.

Pre-payment certificates (PPCs) for England

	Prescription charge income from PPC sales (£000)	*PPC income as a percentage of the total prescription charge income*	*PPC applications received (Thousand)*[1]
2004-05	63,288	16	1,111
2005-06	66,937	17	1,151
2006-07	70,725	17	1,167

[1] Information on the number of people applying for a PPC is not recorded. Individuals may apply for more than one PPC within a yearly period. Applications not resulting in the issue of a PPC are also included.

Source:

Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definitions are of *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* tertiary health care; and what services are provided within each category of care. [177190]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no legal definition of 'primary care', 'secondary care' and 'tertiary care'. In general terms, 'primary care' describes community based health services that are usually the first, and often the only, point of contact that patients make with the health service. It covers services provided by family doctors (general practitioners), community pharmacists, optometrists, dentists, community and practice nurses, community therapists (such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists) and midwives. NHS Direct and NHS walk-in centres are also primary care services, as are paramedical services provided by ambulance trusts. 'Secondary care' refers to the range of outpatient and inpatient services provided through acute and mental health hospitals, and 'tertiary care' covers more specialised hospital-based services that are provided in a limited number of centres across the country. These tertiary services are usually accessed by referral from secondary care.

Public Participation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people responded to each consultation conducted by his Department in the last five years. [180904]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Rickets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of rickets there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07. [184509]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Sexual Dysfunction: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for men *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years of age were issued for anti-impotence preparations in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [183764]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no information which links prescription items dispensed with either the sex or the age of the patient receiving them. However, in the case of anti-impotence preparations we can assume that all prescriptions issued are for males. Information gathered through the analysis of prescriptions issued free of charge allows some estimates to be made of prescriptions received by persons aged 60 and over.

The main anti-impotence preparations are listed at paragraphs 7.4.5 (Drugs for erectile dysfunction) of the British National Formulary (BNF). Some of these drugs may have been prescribed for other conditions but it is not possible to determine how large a proportion. Similarly, drugs from other parts of the BNF or drugs not licensed for this condition, may have been prescribed. Again, it is not possible to determine the proportion of the use of these drugs.

Estimates of the number of prescription items issued to all males, males aged 60 and over and those issued to males under 60 for each year between 2002 and 2006 are set out in the following table.

BNF 7.4.5 drugs for erectile dysfunction, dispensed in the community, in England: source Prescription Cost Analysis data

	Males under 60		Males 60 and over		All males	
	Number of items (Thousand)[1]	Net ingredient cost (£000)[1]	Number of items (Thousand)[1]	Net ingredient cost (£000)[1]	Number of items (Thousand)[1]	Net ingredient cost (£000)[1]
2002	584.3	18,815.64	476.2	15,284.90	1060.5	34,100.54
2003	682.6	22,193.90	591.2	18,601.70	1273.8	40,795.60
2004	757.8	24,449.55	707.0	22,672.00	1464.8	47,121.55
2005	790.0	27,225.71	800.3	26,119.64	1590.4	53,345.35
2006	826.8	28,777.47	873.8	29,269.12	1700.6	58,046.59

[1] Estimated

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value was of each grant provided by his Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184102]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No grants have been made from the Department to district councils (Shrewsbury or Atcham borough councils). A table showing the grants paid to Shropshire county council and Telford and Wrekin borough council in 2006-07 and for 2007-08 to 2008-09 is shown as follows. The local authorities were notified of these grants in LASSL(2006)1 and LASSL(DH)(2007)2.

Table of grants from the Department to Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin

£ million

Grant			Shropshire	Telford and Wrekin
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Access and Capacity	3.262	3.306	1.535	1.521
Child and adolescent mental health services	0.263	0.268	0.262	0.267
Carers	0.938	0.950	0.554	0.569
Commission for Social Care Inspection	0.004	0.004	0.002	0.002
Delayed Discharges	0.601	0.610	0.276	0.279
Human Resource Development Strategy	0.221	0.223	0.142	0.147
Improving Management Information	0.131	0.132	0.099	0.101
Mental Health	0.565	0.577	0.333	0.390
National Training Strategy	0.477	0.482	0.307	0.318
Preserved Rights	1.628	1.502	0.287	0.268
Preventative Technology	0.182	0.307	0.083	0.140
Training	[1]—	0.023,546	[1]—	0.013,785
Independent Mental Capacity Advocate	[1]—	0.035,387	[1]—	0.020,717
Mental Health Act General	[1]—	0.020,688	[1]—	0.012,111
Total	8.272,000	8.440,621	3.880,000	4.048613

£ million

Grant	Shropshire	Telford and Wrekin
2008-09		
Social care reform grant (ring fenced)	0.468	0.259
Contribution to area based grant	4.762	2.586
Total	5.230	2.845
2009-10		
Social care reform grant (ring fenced)	1.106	0.613
Contribution to area based grant	4.963	2.717
Total	5.799	3.330

[1] Denotes grant did not exist

Smoking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to initiate a warning on tobacco products that smoking can cause blindness. [184062]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no plans to initiate a warning on tobacco products that smoking can cause blindness.

Social Services: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to review the need for an independent complaints body for social care. [183903]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For social care services arranged through local authorities, there is recourse to the local authority social services complaints procedure and to independent review by the Local Government Ombudsman.

The Department's recent consultation, Making Experiences Count, which set out proposals for a single, comprehensive complaints process across health and social care, made no proposals to change the arrangements relating to the Local Government Ombudsman. The Department's response to the consultation will be published shortly.

We are also considering the particular issue of the independent resolution of complaints by people who arrange and finance their own social care services.

Surgery

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancelled *(a)* operations and *(b)* other appointments in NHS hospitals there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [183304]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department collects information on the number of operations cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons. Data for 2005-06 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

The Government's cancelled operations policy introduced in April 2002 provides an incentive for hospitals to avoid cancellations by giving patients the right to move to the hospital of their choice if they are not treated within 28 days. Since this came into force the number of patients cancelled at the last minute, has fallen from 1.5 per cent. to 0.8 per cent. of elective activity.

Number of operations cancelled at the last minute in each quarter

Quarter ending	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
June	15,690	12,548	12,492
September	13,058	12,259	12,489
December	14,819	12,600	—
March	17,236	14,598	—
Total	60,803	52,005	24,981

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

Tobacco

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the code of practice governing the sale of cigarettes from vending machines to ensure that only those aged over 18 are able to buy cigarettes from such machines. [183746]

Dawn Primarolo: Vending machines are a source of tobacco for many children and young people. The Department has undertaken in the "Cancer Reform Strategy", published in December 2007, to consult on the next steps of tobacco control and the further regulation of tobacco products, including access to tobacco from vending machines. This consultation will take place in spring 2008.

No action on vending machines is planned until the consultation has been completed.

Treatment Centres

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of *(a)* the procurement process and *(b)* any compensation payments to relevant parties for those phase 2 independent sector treatment centres which will now not proceed. [180041]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 107-8W.

Waiting Lists: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting for an operation in each London borough at the latest date for which figures are available; and what steps the Government plan to take to reduce these figures in 2008. [179728]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about the number of people waiting for an operation is collected at trust level and the information provided for the 31 primary care trusts (PCTs) in London is shown in the following table. The latest figures available are for people waiting as at the end of November 2007.

Today waiting times are at a record low; patients can expect a maximum 13 week wait for their first out-patient appointment and a maximum six month wait for an operation.

Latest data show that over half of admitted patients (patients who require admission to hospital for treatment) and over three quarters of non-admitted patients are treated within 18 weeks.

Primary care trust	*Total waiting*
Havering PCT	3,654
Kingston PCT	1,987
Bromley PCT	3,579
Greenwich PCT	2,807
Barnet PCT	3,586
Hillingdon PCT	3,138
Enfield PCT	3,143
Barking and Dagenham PCT	2,504
City and Hackney PCT	1,651
Tower Hamlets PCT	2,664
Newham PCT	2,472
Haringey PCT	2,597
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,182
Ealing PCT	3,995
Hounslow PCT	2,312
Brent PCT	3,293
Harrow PCT	2,119
Camden PCT	2,309
Islington PCT	2,487
Croydon PCT	4,126
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,420
Westminster PCT	2,247
Lambeth PCT	2,860
Southwark PCT	2,681
Lewisham PCT	2,780
Wandsworth PCT	2,310
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,766
Sutton and Merton PCT	4,268
Redbridge PCT	2,883
Waltham Forest PCT	2,600
Bexley Care Trust	2,047
London strategic health authority total	83,467

Notes:
1. Figures relate to patients within PCTs in London.
2. Figures by London borough are not available.
Source:
Department of Health MMRCOMM

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of all single farm payments due had been made by 1 January 2008. [178707]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 January 2008]*: As of 31 December 2007, 47 per cent. of all full single payment scheme payments have been made for the 2007 scheme year.

Air Pollution: South East

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what air quality management areas there are in the south-east region of England, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* year of designation. [183638]

Jonathan Shaw: To date, around 229 local authorities have designated air quality management areas in the UK. 40 of the authorities are in the south-east region of England which are listed in the following table.

Further information is available on the UK National Air Quality Archive website operated on behalf of DEFRA.

No	*Authority*	*Date of AQMA declaration*
1	Adur district council	1 December 2005
2	Aylesbury Vale DC	4 July 2005
3	Brighton and Hove City	8 December 2004
4	Canterbury city council	2 May 2006
5	Chichester DC	24 August 2006 and 17 May 2007
6	Dartford borough council	1 October 2001 and 23 November 2006
7	Dover district council	20 June 2002, 15 October 2004, 12 November 2007 and 20 December 2007
8	Eastleigh Borough council	16 February 2005 and 3 July2006
9	Elmbridge BC	17 June 2005
10	Epsom and Ewell BC	12 July 2007
11	Fareham borough council	1 April 2006 and 1 December 2007
12	Gravesham BC	1 January 2002 and 1 April 2005
13	Hastings borough council	8 December 2003
14	Lewes district council	30 June 2005
15	Maidstone BC	1 August 2001 and 1 January 2005
16	Medway council	14 January 2002
17	New Forest DC	6 June 2005 and 13 December 2005
18	Oxford city council	1 September 2001 and 13 May 2005
19	Portsmouth city council	11 April 2005
20	Reading BC	26 September 2006
21	Reigate and Banstead BC	23 December 2003, 15 July 2005, 24 May 2006 and 10 January 2007 and 5 November 2007
22	Runnymede BC	4 December 2001
23	Rushmoor BC	11 November 2004
24	Sevenoaks DC	1 March 2002, 30 September 2005 and 5 September 2006
25	Slough borough council	23 June 2005
26	Southampton city council	22 August 2005
27	South Bucks DC	1 October 2004
28	South Oxfordshire DC	1 January 2003 and 28 March 2006
29	Spelthorne BC	1 December 2000
30	Surrey Heath DC	1 April 2002
31	Thanet district council	23 March 2006
32	Tonbridge and Mailing BC	1 May 2001 and [illegible] June 2005
33	Tunbridge Wells BC	1 November 2005
34	Vale of White Horse DC	23 August 2006
35	Waverley BC	16 May 2005 and 23 August 2007
36	West Oxfordshire DC	1 March 2005
37	Winchester city council	14 November 2003
38	Windsor and Maidenhead RB	1 April 2005
39	Wokingham DC	28 September 2001 and 7 May 2004
40	Wycombe DC	1 August 2001

Alcoholic Drinks

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the future of cider brandy production; [182192]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 January 2007, on the outcome of the December 2007 Agriculture and Fisheries Council, what steps are being taken to resolve the technical problem resulting from the omission of the term cider brandy; and if he will make a statement; [182259]

(3) for what reason cider brandy was omitted from the product descriptions in the European Regulation on the definition, description and labelling of spirit drinks; and if he will make a statement; [182260]

(4) for what reasons he voted in favour of the regulation on the definition, description and labelling of spirit drinks at the December 2007 Agriculture and Fisheries Council; how the representatives of other governments voted; and if he will make a statement. [182261]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of wine producing member states objected to the term cider brandy being included in the regulation. When the issue was originally raised by one of the cider brandy producers the European Parliament and Council had already agreed a first reading deal. The European Commission made it clear that it would not be possible to re-open the agreed text at such a late stage in the legislative process.

At the December 2007 Agriculture and Fisheries Council, the Council adopted by qualified majority a regulation on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks. I voted in favour of this regulation but drew attention to the need to resolve the problem resulting from the omission of the term "cider brandy" from permitted product descriptions in the new regulation. We understand that the industry met with the European Commission at the end of last year and were informed that this issue may be resolved by applying for geographical indication status for cider brandy. We will be pursuing the workability of this solution with the Commission shortly.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to report to the House on the feasibility study on ending the use of non-domesticated animals in travelling circuses. [183327]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials are considering the feasibility of introducing secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to promote the welfare of wild animals involved in acts. As part of this work, we are currently preparing an impact assessment, looking into the regulation of wild animals in circuses, which should be ready in early spring. I shall inform parliamentary colleagues of the conclusions that were reached.

Animal Welfare: Genetic Engineering

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the European Food Standards Agency's draft scientific opinions relating to *(a)* animal health and welfare and *(b)* the environmental impact of cloned animals, their offspring and the products obtained from them; and if he will make a statement. [183635]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government welcome the European Food Safety Authority's draft opinion as a useful contribution to the debate on cloning.

The draft report recognises the complexity of the issue and that further studies are needed to monitor the health and welfare of cloned animals during their lifespan.

We agree with the opinion that there is no expectation nor information to suggest that cloned animals or their progeny pose any new or greater risks compared to conventionally bred animals.

Animal Welfare: Religion

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued on the slaughter, on grounds of welfare and animal health, of animals living in religious communities which regard such animals as sacred; and if he will make a statement. [184457]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 February 2008]*: No formal guidance has been issued. However, I fully recognise the importance of respecting different beliefs and points of view and working at accommodating these within the law.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 places a formal duty on animal keepers to care for their animals—they must not allow them to suffer unnecessary pain and distress. If an animal is suffering unnecessarily, the law allows for a veterinary surgeon to euthanize that animal in the best interests of its welfare.

Animal health legislation also provides for certain actions to be taken for disease control purposes.

Officials are careful to explain their actions when humane destruction or other action is proposed. Ultimately, however, the law must be enforced to control disease and/or prevent an animal from suffering. Where agreement cannot be reached through consultation, a court will usually be invited to approve enforcement action.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Environment (Hilary Benn), will shortly be holding a meeting to discuss how we take into account the views of religious communities while upholding the requirements of animal health and welfare legislation.

Badgers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of trends in the numbers of badgers in the UK over the last 10 years; how many badger culls have taken place in this period; and what steps he is taking to protect badgers in Leicestershire. [178683]

Joan Ruddock: Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 badgers and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated the population had increased by 77 per cent.

Between November 2005 and December 2006 research was undertaken on behalf of DEFRA to provide a baseline index of population densities of badgers in selected regions of England. These indices will serve as a baseline against which any future changes in population densities can be assessed.

Other than the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, which looked at the role badgers play in bovine TB in cattle, no culls have taken place since 1998.

Badgers and their setts, including those in Leicestershire, are protected under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Beef: Imports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has made to the EU Commission report on the tracing of Brazilian beef imports; and what assessment he has made of the traceability of such imports into the UK. [178720]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK supports the European Commission in taking action to address some long-running concerns about beef production in Brazil.

Controls are in place to ensure that all meat imported from third countries must be accompanied by veterinary certification. This must confirm that the meat is derived from animals that have been subjected to a veterinary inspection during the 24 hours prior to slaughter and showed no signs of FMD. As a further precaution, EU import rules require that all meat imported from Brazil be deboned and matured, a process which produces an acid change which inactivates any FMD virus present.

All meat imported into the EU from third countries must enter at designated Border Inspection Posts where checks are carried out to ensure import conditions have been met. All consignments are subjected to identity and documentary checks and at least 20 per cent. of consignments undergo a physical check.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of the bluetongue variant 8 (BTV8) vaccine is to farmers per dose; [183432]

Mr Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he intends to apply to the European Commission for an emergency vaccination programme for bluetongue disease; and how he plans to provide for the remaining costs of such a programme; [183570]

(2) when he expects to announce his strategy for the procurement and use of a vaccine for bluetongue disease; [183571]

(3) what proportion of costs he plans to allocate to livestock owners for development of a vaccine for bluetongue disease. [183572]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* On 19 December, DEFRA announced that it is placing an order with the pharmaceutical company Intervet to supply 22.5 million doses of bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) vaccine, with 20 million doses reserved for England, and 2.5 million for potential use in Wales. The UK was the first member state in northern Europe affected by the current outbreak of BTV-8 to place an order for vaccine, and Intervet has indicated that vaccine is expected to become available for use from May.

In keeping with the principles set out in the UK bluetongue control strategy, which was developed in partnership with the farming industry, livestock keepers in the protection zone will be able to purchase doses from the vaccine bank. It is expected that purchasing vaccine will make economic sense for livestock keepers as the cost of purchasing and delivering vaccine is significantly outweighed by the potential costs of the impact of disease.

We are working urgently with Intervet and veterinary wholesalers to finalise the cost of vaccine to farmers. However, it is important to note that the vaccination process may also entail additional costs such as veterinary administration or supervision of vaccination, identification and, potentially, pre-movement testing. Individual livestock keepers, who will benefit directly from the vaccination of their stock, will be responsible for meeting these costs. The extent of these costs will be established through a vaccination plan being developed with the industry, and we will publish a paper detailing likely costs as soon as this information is available.

The European Commission has announced that Community funds will be made available to reimburse certain costs associated with member states' emergency bluetongue vaccination programmes for 2008. The UK Government will start discussing with the Commission shortly what funding may be available, and on what terms, bearing in mind the undesirability of any conditions that may be inconsistent with our overarching objectives for control of the disease, or would increase the overall costs of vaccination to farmers themselves.

Bulls

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to assist the development of a market for bull calves. [182789]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has been actively engaged in encouraging the work of the Beyond Calf Export forum which is seeking realistic and economically viable alternatives to calf exports that will benefit the UK beef industry, calf breeders and also calf welfare.

The forum consists of leading dairy and beef industry organisations, supermarkets and animal welfarists who have been working together to find market-based solutions to the problem of the dairy industry's black and white bull calves.

Carbon Emissions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W, on carbon emissions, how many tonnes were carbon offset in 2006-07 by each individual public authority participating in the Offsetting Fund. [178692]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library which lists Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) members, the amount in tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions they have offset and the activities they have offset this through.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173503]

Jonathan Shaw: The 2007 minimum procurement specifications for lightine in general are included in the Market Transformation Programme's Quick Wins Guidance. It sets out the following minimum standards for light bulbs:

> ED Energy Label class A for single ended compact fluorescent and EU Energy Label class A/B for single pin based bulbs
>
> EU energy Label class A for both long life and short life double-ended light bulbs.

No specific guidelines have been set for decorative Christmas lights.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173529]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA selects real Christmas trees.

The UK timber procurement policy applies to the procurement of Christmas trees. Therefore, currently DEFRA procures natural Christmas trees from legal sources and actively seeks to procure the trees from sustainable sources.

Christmas trees are then re-cycled via mulching.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the carbon dioxide emissions of his Department as a result of the consumption of *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in 2006-07. [181980]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 January 2008]*: The latest data on carbon dioxide emissions for the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs as a result of the consumption of *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in 2006-07 will be published in the Sustainable Development in Government report.

The report, produced by the Sustainable Development Commission is expected in the first week of March.

Departmental Catering

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on the use of free range chicken and eggs in departmental catering facilities; and if he will make a statement. [182054]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's catering service providers are free to supply free range chicken and eggs within departmental catering facilities. The Department requires as a minimum that eggs supplied are to 'Lion Standard', and that chickens supplied are to 'Farm Assured Standard'.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180567]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table presents the requested information for major projects within core DEFRA.

A response covering smaller projects within core DEFRA and bodies beyond the core-Department would incur a disproportionate cost.

Project	*Start Date*	*Original planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Original planned costs (£)*	*Estimated costs (£)*
Customer Land Database	September 2006	March 2009	March 2009	1,860,000	1,730,600
Enabling Technology	April 2008	March 2009	March 2009	4,223,000	4,223,000
Renew IT	March 2007	April 2008	Sept 2008	7,400,000	9,800,000
Spatial Information Repository	March 2005	March 2007	March 2009	13,800,000	14,965,000
Surveillance Profiles Database	January 2007	March 2008	March 2008	514,000	514,000
Whole Farm Approach	April 2003	March 20 10	March 201 1	[1]65,000,000	[2]74,000,000

[1] Original planned costs reference the WFA business case v1.0 31 October 2005

[2] Estimated costs include the delivery of relevant e-transactions services in delivery bodies (managed/funded in conjunction with other programmes).

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in each pay grade were employed in his Department and its agencies on *(a)* 1 January 2008, *(b)* 1 April 2004 and *(c)* 1 October 2001; and what the equivalent figure was in respect of his Department's predecessors on 1 June 1997. [180487]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information, where available, is shown in the tables. Most of the data for earlier dates is either unavailable or would incur disproportionate cost to compile.

Defra

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*	*1 April 2004*
AA	115.8	578.7
AO	570.7	1,669.5
EO	582.2	1,426.6
HEO	834.8	1,471.5
SEO	372.5	770.9
Grade 7	517.2	529.7
Grade 6	158.6	153.9
SCS	154.6	159.5
Total	3,306.5	6,760.3

Animal Health Agency (created on 1 April 2005 as the State Veterinary Service)

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*
AA	190.1
AO	480.3
EO	404.9
HEO	197.2
SEO	34.5
Grade 7	250.4
Grade 6	35.0
SCS	9.0
Total	1,601.5

Central Science Laboratory

	1 January 2008	*1 April 2004*	*1 October 2001*		*1 June 1997*
Band 1	31.21	41.30	47.65	Level 1	202.63
Band 2	146.83	175.14	176.96	Level 2	273.32
Band 3	161.22	170.06	144.36	Level 3	66.80
Band 4	133.12	136.40	133.47	Level 4	36.00
Band 5	90.45	86.11	71.45	Level 5	17.00
Band 6	58.22	56.25	45.00	SCS	4.00
Band 7	13.00	19.00	18.61		
SCS	4.00	4.00	4.00		
Total	638.05	688.26	641.5	Total	599.75

Note:

CSL grading structure changed in 2000

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Grade	*1 January 2008*	*1 April 2004*
PB1	5.9	13.6
PB2	41.5	67.4
PB3	84.4	78.6
PB4	102.7	129.2
PB5	108.5	105.8
PB6	86.2	82.1
PB7	46.1	36.5
PB8	19.8	18.8
SCS1	2.0	3.0
Total	497.1	534.9

Government Decontamination Service (created on 1 October 2005)

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*
AA	0.0
AO	5.8
EO	3.0
HEO	9.0
SEO	1.0
Grade 7	4.0
Grade 6	1.0
SCS	1.0
Total	24.8

Marine and Fisheries Agency (created on 1 October 2005)

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*
AA	23.3
AO	32.8
EO	54.8
HEO	24.0
SEO	20.0
Grade 7	9.0
Grade 6	3.0
SCS	1.0
Total	167.8

Pesticides Safety Directorate

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*	*1 April 2004*
AA	14.7	16.6
AO	21.2	26.4
EO	23.6	30.2
HEO	67.2	54.7
SEO	31.8	34.9
Grade 7	15.0	16.0
Grade 6	1.0	1.0
SCS	2.0	3.0
Total	176.5	182.8

Rural Payments Agency

Grade	*1 January 2008*	*1 April 2004*	*1 October 2004*
SGB1	5.68	21.38	10.78
SGB2	4.00	25.22	28.95
AA	9.00	572.37	440.94
AO	1,754.99	1,715.24	1,445.20
Typist	0.00	11.59	24.15
EO	1,004.72	757.05	723.96
HEO	362.17	245.35	238.49
SEO	163.11	107.42	83.58
PS	0.00	11.54	15.15
SFO	1.00	2.00	2.00
G7	76.75	46.81	49.28
G6	26.00	12.00	13.00
SCS	8.00	10.00	5.92
Total	3,415.41	3,537.97	3,081.40

Although RPA was not formally established until 16 October 2001 the staff shown were in post at site locations on 1 October 2001. Staffing figures for 1997 in respect of the Intervention Board are not readily available and the cost of providing it is disproportionate.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Grade	*31 December 2007[1]*	*1 April 2004*
AA	199.3	286.4
AO	403.4	439.9
EO	251.4	236.0
HEO	155.1	120.9
SEO	152.5	141.1
Grade 7	42.7	52.2
Grade 6	23.6	16.9

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Grade	*31 December 2007*[1]	*1 April 2004*
SCS	5.0	4.0
Total	1,233.1	1,297.4

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Grade	*31 December 2007*[1]	*1 April 2004*
AA	8.6	13.6
AO	35.9	32.6
EO	26.5	27.4
HEO	16.4	14.8
SEO	16.2	18.8
Grade 7	24.4	12.4
Grade 6	3.8	3.8
SCS	3.0	3.0
Total	134.8	126.4

[1] Data is currently collected on the last day of the month by Defra and some of the Agencies.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179458]

Jonathan Shaw: My right Hon friend the Secretary Of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) can confirm that his Department recycled the following amounts of paper in each of the last five years.

Tonnes

	Paper recycled
2006-2007	860
2005-2006	970
2004-2005	669
2003-2004	745
2002-2003	747

In 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 data were gathered from sites with 50 or more staff and covered 39 sites. In 2005-06 and 2006-07 data were collected from sites with 25 or more staff (these covered 54 sites).

Dogs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on adding new breeds and cross-breeds of dogs to those covered by the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and whether he plans to act in response to such representations. [184506]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have received a number of representations requesting that we add further breeds or types of dog to the list of dogs already prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

We keep the Act under regular review and last year we carried out a consultation with the police on dangerous dogs legislation. At the time the police did not indicate there was a need to add any other types of dogs to the list of prohibited dogs and we currently have no plans to do so.

Domestic Animals: Animal Welfare

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with veterinary professionals on the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in safeguarding household pets from cruelty. [183403]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA holds a range of discussions with veterinary professionals on this and other issues.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1133W, on domestic wastes: waste disposal, whether the new national indicator set of performance indicators will include measures of public satisfaction with local authority waste collection services. [182237]

Joan Ruddock: The national indicator set is limited to measures to achieve the Government's priority outcomes. Local authorities' duties and responsibilities remain unchanged. There are many services and activities undertaken by local government, alone or in partnership, which are not directly reflected in the National Indicator Set but which will continue to be important to local areas and the people they serve. It is more appropriate that these are performance managed locally; with local authorities setting priorities, determining performance indicators and monitoring and reviewing performance. This is part of the devolution deal that local government has been seeking.

A Place Survey run by Communities and Local Government (CLG) will be used to collect 20 of the citizen perspective indicators included in the National Indicator Set. This will replace the Best Value User Satisfaction surveys. It is anticipated that the first Place Survey will be undertaken this autumn. It is anticipated that the consultation document will be available in mid-December and will be available under the 'Consultation' section of the CLG website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether in those areas piloting charges for household rubbish collection waste disposal authorities will be liable to make payments to waste collection authorities for costs arising from *(a)* collection, *(b)* pilot administration and *(c)* charge collection; and whether such disposal authorities will be liable to make payments to cover potential savings in disposal costs. [182248]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot non revenue raising incentives schemes, which are designed to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling. Any revenue the authority collects through charges under a waste reduction scheme would have to be given back to residents through rebates for those producing less waste. Local authorities could not keep any money for their own purposes, nor could they use the revenue to cover any of their costs.

As stated in the Climate Change Bill, where a waste disposal authority is not a waste collection authority, the waste disposal authority may make payments to the waste collection authority. The amount of any such payments would be up to the waste disposal authority and the waste collection authority to determine locally.

As previously stated, the Government will be providing up to £1.5 million per year for three years to support the pilots.

European Fisheries Fund

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to submit the Operational Programme of the European Fisheries Fund to the European Commission; when he expects approval to be granted for the UK Operational Programme by the Commission; and if he will make a statement. [183541]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 778-79W and on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 30W.

Fisheries: Public Appointments

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2124-5W, on fisheries: public appointments, if he will provide the information requested in relation to the current members of the sea fisheries committees; and if he will make a statement; [183595]

(2) what the names are of all *(a)* current and *(b)* previous members of each sea fisheries committee; and if he will make a statement. [183596]

Jonathan Shaw: Section 2 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 sets out that persons appointed by the Minister to Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) shall be:

> '...persons acquainted with the needs and opinions of the fishing interests of that district or as being persons having "knowledge of, or expertise in, marine environmental matters".

Once appointed, members are required to represent, in a balanced way, all local fishing and marine environmental interests in the SFC district. Appointees should not regard themselves as representing any one particular interest or organisation.

As of 30 January 2008, the names and known interests (as recorded at the time of their first appointment) of all current DEFRA ministerial appointees to each Sea Fisheries Committee are as follows:

Name	*Known interests at time of first appointment*
Cornwall SFC	
Stuart Athay	Charter Boat Skipper
Kevin P Bennetts	Potter, beam trawler plus sea angler
Chris Brett	Inshore netter/crabber
Christopher Curtis	Harbour master/fisherman
C J Mitchell	Secretary to local fishermen's association
David C Muirhead	Ex-fisherman
David Stevens	Share fisherman/owner
Philip Trebilcock	Fisherman
Dr. Nick Tregenza	Environmentalist
John Trewin	Inshore fisherman
P G Walton	Inshore fisherman
Ruth Williams	Environmentalist/marine conservation officer
Cumbria SFC	
D Baxter	Shrimp fisherman
Ronald Graham	Part-time fisherman/member of European Fisheries Forum
George Southwell	Fisherman—trawling, netting, potting
D Harpley	Marine conservation officer
J McAvoy	Fisherman, trawler
Michael Sterland	Sea angler/tackle shop owner
Devon SFC	
David Cuthbert	Fisherman
Chris Davis	Environmentalist
Martyn Gates	Fisherman, shellfish farmer, fish merchant
David Morgan	Shellfisherman (crabs, lobsters)
David Henry Pakes	Sea angling, boat owner
James Portus	Chief exec SWFPO Ltd
David Rowe	Sea angler
R Talbot	Fisherman
Christopher Venmore	Shellfisherman
Eastern SFC	
Mr. Roy Brewster	Inshore fisherman
Robert John Garnett	Fisherman/vessel owner-skipper
Neil A Lake	Shellfisherman
Ivan G Large	Inshore fisherman
Thomas Pinborough	Sea angler
Cyril A R Southerland	Shellfisherman
Steven Williamson	Shellfish factory manager
Michael Yates	Scientific officer
Vacant post	—
Isles of Scilly SFC	
Timothy Allsop	Charter skipper
Barry Bennett	Fisherman/lifeboat coxswain
Mark Dean Pender	Fisherman
Timothy Richards	Fisherman
Kent and Essex SFC	
Gary Attenborough	Cockler
Teresa Bennett	Environmentalist
Paul D Gilson	Thames trawlerman/merchant
Richard A Jacobs	Thames beam trawlerman
B Martin	Fisherman
John Nichols	Shipwright conservation officer (angling interests)
S J Place	Gill netter
Leon Roskilly	Sea angler
Vacant post	—

Name	Known interests at time of first appointment
North Eastern SFC	
David Ballington	Sea angler
Stuart McPherson	Angler
S Cowan	Fishing vessel skipper
Michael J Emmerson	Shellfisherman
Derek Heselton MBE	Fisherman
Gary Hodgson	Shellfisherman/vessel owner
Robert Mainprize	Skipper/vessel owner/biological sampler for CEFAS/guard ship
J Johnson	Skipper owner
Jim Linstead	Trawlerman (chief exec GFPO)
Stephen J Norton	CE00Grimsby Fish Merchants Assoc Ltd
Frank Powell	Fisherman
N V Proctor	Marine biologist, conservation officer with Yorkshire NFSA (plus sea angling)
Terence N Pearson	Company director/inshore fisherman
Thomas W Smith	Shellfish/salmon fisherman
Dr. Selina Stead	Environmentalist
G Traves MBE	Shellfisherman/trawlerman
John Whitton	Angler
North Western and North Wales SFC	
Arthur Brecknell	NW Sea Fish Industry Training Association
Geoff Hancock	Sea angler
D G Jewitt	Fisherman
Allan S Marklew	Sea angler
Margaret R Owen	Part-time fisherwoman
Norman Parker	Retired netsman
M Porter	Fisherman
Tommy Watson	Fisherman
C Woods	Shellfisherman
Northumberland SFC	
Tony Anderson	Sea angler
David Morton	Angler/small boat owner
Kevin Henderson	Skipper/owner
David Herriot	Chief exec Anglo Scottish FPO
Steven Moss	Skipper/owner Trawlerman
Dr. Nick Polunin	Marine ecologist
Henry Rowe	Fisherman
James Stephenson	Shellfisherman
John Thomson	Fisherman
Southern SFC	
Richard Ferre	Chair of NFSA/sea angler and boat owner
Dr. Anthony C Jensen	Marine biologist
Terry Lankford	Vessel owner/shellfish merchant and exporter
Kenneth Lynham	Shellfisherman
Chris Mowlam	Fisherman
David Sales	Fisherman
Stella Stride JP	Vessel and boatyard owner secretary of various fishing organisations
Mark Stevenson	Fisherman
Peter Tinsley	Marine conservation officer
Sussex SFC	
M J R Barrow	Fisherman
Bill Brock	Fish market owner/fishing vessel manager
Alan Brothers	Sea angler
A P Delahunty	Shellfisherman
Graham Doswell	Fisherman
Simon J A Flint	Sea angler
David Guy	Fisheries manager
David Harvey	Environmentalist
Ron Simmons	Trawlerman

Welsh Ministers are responsible for the remaining appointments to North Western and North Wales SFC, and are solely responsible for appointments to South Wales SFC.

The information requested in relation to all previous members is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next plans to discuss fisheries quota management with Ministers in the devolved administrations; and if he will make a statement. [183594]

Jonathan Shaw: I have no current plans to discuss quota management with Ministers in the devolved administrations.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to help provide more quota to the 10 metre and under fleet in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [183598]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine and Fisheries Agency is exploring all options to acquire additional quota for the inshore fleet through domestic and international swaps, and via quota contributed to 10 metre and under quota allocations by producer organisations under economic link arrangements.

Discussion is also under way with producer organisations to seek their continued co-operation in providing more quota for the 10 metre and under fleet.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 744W, on fisheries: quotas, what proposals his Department supported to *(a)* reform quota management and *(b)* improve quota availability for the 10 metre and under fleet prior to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [183613]

Jonathan Shaw: In my previous answer to which the hon. Member refers, I explained why publication of the draft Quota Management Change Programme proposals would be misleading and unhelpful. For the same reasons, I do not propose to set out those proposals here.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the planned consultation for the Quota Management Change Programme did not take place between January and March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [183900]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 744W.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to use the dispute resolution procedure in the devolution agreements to introduce UK-wide reform of quota management; and if he will make a statement; [183901]

(2) under what circumstances he would use the dispute resolution procedure in the devolution agreements in relation to the establishment of quotas; and if he will make a statement. [183902]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government will continue to constructively engage with the devolved Administrations with regard to fisheries management. The memorandum of understanding between the Government and the devolved Administrations provides mechanisms for resolving disputes where necessary.

Geographical Information Systems: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which public authorities, other than local authorities and their partner organisations, have access to the MAGIC database. [183377]

Jonathan Shaw: The MAGIC service is available on the internet with no restrictions. Hence all public authorities can view and use the data online.

Many of the datasets can also be downloaded either from the MAGIC website or through facilities provided directly by the partner organisations.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers the British Horseracing Authority has to tackle excessive use of whips by jockeys in horseracing; and if he will make a statement. [183634]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, it is an offence either to cause any captive animal unnecessary suffering or to fail to provide for the welfare needs of the animal. Any person or organisation may initiate criminal proceedings under the Act where there is reason to believe that unnecessary suffering has been caused.

Details of powers available to industry bodies, including bodies responsible for racing standards, can be obtained directly from the body concerned.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will use powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to criminalise the excessive whipping of racehorses by jockeys; and if he will make a statement. [183636]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to either cause any unnecessary suffering or to fail to protect an animal from pain, injury or suffering. This law protects all horses from excessive use of the whip.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the implications for animal welfare of whipping racehorses during races. [183637]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no plans to commission research into the effect of whipping racehorses. Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 already makes it an offence for anyone to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal under the control of man. A court would have to decide, based on the individual circumstances of the case, whether an offence had been committed under section 4 of the Act.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the farming industry of changes made to the regulations on farm burials and the disposal of carcasses in each year since the regulations came into force; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the prohibition of on-farm burials on water quality over the same period. [178804]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the introduction of the EU Animal By-products Regulation in 2003, which introduced a ban on the on-farm burial of livestock, the UK National Fallen Stock Scheme (NFSS) began operating in November 2004. Initially, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations agreed jointly to provide funding of £20 million to support the scheme on a reducing basis over three (later extended to four) years.

Set out in the following table is the amount of direct support the Government have provided for UK farmers to date.

	£
2004-05	858,605
2005-06	5,945,279
2006-07	6,869,220
2007-08[1]	2,169,094

[1] To end December.

The NFSS is run by the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo). Although NFSCo's running costs are mainly financed by the farmers who are members of the scheme, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations have also made contributions to its set-up costs, scheme administration and IT. These contributions are set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	1,458,930
2005-06	601,056
2006-07	538,885
2007-08	660,000

In addition, DEFRA has carried out a number of publicity campaigns to better articulate the need for the burial ban. These cost £10,000 in 2006-07 and £40,860 in 2007-08. This activity was the result of a recommendation set out by Bob Bansback in his independent review of the NFSS.

It is not possible to estimate the amount spent by the farming industry. Not all farmers are members of the scheme and many will have made their own arrangements to dispose of carcases in compliance with the rules. In addition, many farmers would have disposed of carcases as required by the EU regulation even had it not been agreed, given the strict controls on carcase disposal under previous domestic legislation.

With regard to the impact on water quality, no such assessment has been made. The Environment Agency is often involved with carcases found in or near to watercourses. The Agency has previously stated that it has no direct evidence to show that on-farm burial in the past has caused reportable pollution problems. However, EU scientific opinion which underpinned the Animal By-products Regulation expressed concern:

> about the location of burial sites and access of livestock to them;
>
> that the potential for transmission of TSEs from specified risk material buried near the surface was poorly characterised;
>
> about the extent to which infectivity would be reduced by burial;
>
> about the penetration of prions into leachates and groundwater; and
>
> the dangers arising from 're-engineering' in areas where previous burial of TSE contaminated material had occurred.

Given these uncertainties, it was concluded that the burial of carcases continued to pose a significant risk.

Morgan Allan Moore

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the company Morgan Allan Moore in the last 12 months. [179592]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking under the public sector food Initiative to encourage public sector bodies to phase out the purchase of conventional battery eggs when procuring food and meals; and if he will make a statement. [183731]

Jonathan Shaw: The public sector food procurement initiative contains a specific objective to promote animal welfare, but does not provide specific guidance on purchasing eggs. We are however committed to the 2012 deadline to phase out conventional "battery" cages across the EU and welcome the recommendation in the Commission's recently published report on the welfare of laying hens in various production systems to maintain that deadline.

We will be alerting public bodies to the Commission's recommendation that the 2012 deadline should stay, of our commitment to this deadline and that alternative production systems offer clear welfare advantages over conventional (i.e. barren) battery cages. This should help to raise awareness and encourage public bodies to look at other methods of production.

The Government do not wish to see as a consequence of the EU ban an increase in imported egg and egg products derived from chickens in barren cage systems. That would not benefit animal welfare.

Recycling: Incentives

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which councils already operate reward-only incentive schemes to encourage recycling. [183276]

Joan Ruddock: Central Government do not hold information on councils which operate reward-only incentive schemes to encourage recycling. The type of waste collection scheme operated by a local authority is rightly a local decision.

Regeneration: Coventry

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department has provided for the re-development of Coventry in the last 12 months; and what *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans for that purpose are planned for the future. [180716]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 January 2008]*: There have been no specific DEFRA grants or loans provided for the re-development of Coventry in the last 12 months. Coventry city council is working in partnership with a number of private sector developers and Advantage West Midlands (the regional development agency (RDA) for the west midlands) to continue the regeneration of the city. Details of funding streams are yet to be determined, but it is estimated by the city council that the redevelopment will cost £1 billion. This will involve a mix of public and private sector funding.

DEFRA is one of six Departments which contributes to the financing of all England's regional development agencies through the RDA single programme. The funding is allocated according to a specific formula.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175308]

Jonathan Shaw: The DEFRA regulators and inspectorates listed are those included in Philip Hampton's review "Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement". Published in March 2005, having been commissioned by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the aim of the review was to identify ways in which the administrative burden of regulation on businesses can be reduced, while maintaining or improving regulatory outcomes.

Budget information for each body has been provided where this is readily available from either published annual reports and accounts or from the Cabinet Office annual publication "Public Bodies". Information has been provided back to 2001-02, the year in which DEFRA was created. Information relating to the cost of restructuring for these bodies is not held centrally and is not readily available without incurring disproportionate costs.

	Budget					
Bodies	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Agricultural Wages Board England and Wales[1] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA)	0.22	0.22	0.22	—	0.30	—
Animal Health[2] (previously the State Veterinary Service) (SVS was part of core DEFRA until 1 April 2005 when it became an Executive agency and was subsequently re-named Animal Health)	—	—	—	—	96.76	106.45
British Potato Council[1] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA)	6.05	6.55	6.33	—	5.96	—
Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA until October 2006 when it merged with the SVS)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drinking Water Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egg Marketing Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA until 1 April 2007 when EMI merger with Animal Health)	—	—	—	—	—	—
English Nature[1] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA, until 1 October 2006, when it merged with the Rural Development Service and Country Side Agency to form Natural England)	78.39	168.86	82.39	—	87.50	—
Environment Agency[2] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA)	706.70	800.80	835.60	867.20	1,038.40	1,064.60
Fish Health Inspectorate[3] (part of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, an Executive agency of DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gangmasters Licensing Authority[1] (GLA was established as an Executive NDPB on 1 April 2005)	—	—	—	—	5.15	—
Home Grown Cereals Authority[1] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA)	10.24	10.40	9.90	—	10.11	—
Horticulture Marketing Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA until 1 April 2006, when it merged with the RPA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
National Bee Unit[3] (part of Central Science Laboratory, an Executive agency of DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
National Wildlife Management Team[3] (part of core DEFRA until 1 April 2005, when it became part of the SVS)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural England[2] (established as an Executive NDPB of DEFRA on 1 October 2006)	—	—	—	—	240.16	223.25
Pesticides Safety Directorate[2] (an Executive agency of DEFRA)	—	12.36	12.73	13.37	13.56	13.16
Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plant Variety Rights Office and Seeds Division[3] (part of core DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rural Payments Agency[2] (established as an Executive agency of DEFRA on 16 October 2001)	2,834.51	3,198.15	3,636.88	3,910.75	3,973.70	3,279.10
Sea Fish Industry Authority[1] (An Executive NDPB of DEFRA)	10.90	10.85	11.69	—	11.62	—
Sea Fisheries Inspectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA until October 2005 when it became part of the Marine Fisheries Agency, an Executive agency of DEFRA)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Veterinary Medicines Directorate[2] (an Executive agency of DEFRA)	6.44	6.84	7.66	8.11	8.21	8.82
Wildlife Inpsectorate[3] (part of core DEFRA until it merged with Animal Health on 1 April 2007)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wine Standards Board[1] (an Executive NDPB of DEFRA until it became part of the Food Standards Agency in July 2006)	0.53	0.52	0.50	—	0.63	—

[1] Figures are total expenditure taken from the annual Cabinet Office report "Public Bodies". No expenditure figures are available for 2004-05.

[2] Figures taken from the gross annual expenditure taken from the published annual report and accounts for the respective years, where available.

[3] Separate budgetary information is not held centrally as these bodies are either part of core DEFRA or one of its Executive agencies.

Note

The DEFRA inspection and enforcement bodies listed in the table are those included in Philip Hampton's review (published in March 2005) "Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement", with information provided from 2001-02 when DEFRA was created.

Rodents

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate *(a)* he and *(b)* the Environment Agency has made of trends in the rat population and significant rat infestations over the last three years. [183281]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA will shortly be publishing an interim report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

Scottish Fisheries Council

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he or officials from his Department *(a)* have been invited to attend and *(b)* will attend meetings of the Scottish Fisheries Council; and if he will make a statement. [183542]

Jonathan Shaw: Neither myself nor my officials have been invited to attend meetings of the Scottish Fisheries Council.

Water Sports

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on canoe access agreements; and how much his Department has spent on researching such agreements. [184246]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government share canoeists', and other user groups', aspirations for more and better access to inland water and have been working, through our agencies, to deliver this over a number of years. The Government's view is that a statutory right of access to inland waterways is not appropriate. The evidence indicates that the demand for access would more effectively be met by a targeted approach, which involves identifying where access is needed, and then creating access agreements with the landowner and other interested parties. Since 2001 £399,000 has been spent researching such arrangements.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 246W, on whales, to how many *(a)* International Whaling Commission (IWC) members and *(b)* non-IWC members the Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility document has been sent; to how many countries in each continent (i) the document has been sent and (ii) he has written encouraging them to join the IWC; and if he will make a statement; [184198]

(2) how many of the letters he plans to send will be addressed to *(a)* heads of state, *(b)* heads of government, *(c)* his counterparts, *(d)* ambassadors and (e) other foreign government officials; and if he will make a statement; [184717]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the text of the letters he plans to send; and if he will make a statement. [184718]

Jonathan Shaw: As I stated in my answer of the 29 January 2008, the publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' has been sent to over 60 countries, both anti and pro-whaling, including current and non members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), encouraging them to join the effort to protect these species.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment (Hilary Benn) has also written to 18 of these countries, encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

Providing details of these countries and the letters sent to them could compromise our efforts to persuade them to either join the IWC and adopt an anti-whaling stance or, if already an IWC member, increase their commitment to protecting whales.

Whales: Japan

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to whom at the Japanese Embassy the recent request to discuss Japanese whaling was addressed; and if he will make a statement. [183484]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 31 January 2008]* The request to discuss Japanese whaling activities in the Southern Ocean was made to the deputy ambassador of the Japanese embassy in London. The Japanese embassy responded by sending the deputy ambassador Wataru Nishigahiro to meet me on the 8 January.

The deputy ambassador was left in no doubt of the strength of feeling in this country and that the UK is outraged by Japan's whaling activities and considers Japan's lethal research wholly unnecessary.

To our knowledge, the UK and Australia are the only countries in the world to have had such a meeting with Japanese embassy staff over this season's whaling.

A meeting at this level demonstrates to Japan the extent of our concern over the issue and I was left in no doubt that the deputy ambassador would convey the UK's position back to the Japanese Government. The UK Government will continue to make our opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity.

White Fish: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2127-8W, on white fish: conservation, pursuant to the advice given by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ICES that bass stocks appeared to be fished sustainably, for what reasons his Department previously committed to increasing the bass minimum landing size; if his Department was aware of the ICES advice when it made that decision; and if he will make a statement. [183543]

Jonathan Shaw: The commitment made by this Department in August 2006 to increase the bass minimum landing size was intended to provide: (i) benefits for commercial and recreational fishermen through increases in the number and size of bass available for capture; and (ii) increased protection for the bass stock.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment published alongside that commitment made reference to the ICES advice.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 7 February 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Review of Voting Systems

7. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to consider the findings of the Review of Voting Systems, Cm 7304. [185168]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has noted the contents of the Review of Voting Systems, and that the review took account of Commission reports on past elections. The Commission considers that any proposals for further reform to voting systems are a matter for Parliament.

Local Authorities: Reorganisation

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Boundary Committee takes account of *(a)* the views of local residents and *(b)* local identities when deciding whether to restructure local authority areas across existing shire and county boundaries. [184430]

Peter Viggers: Decisions on restructuring of English local government areas are matters for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The process, and the role within it of the boundary committee for England, is set out in part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the use of project bank accounts for 2012 Olympics construction projects. [184485]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority's 2012 construction commitments, published in July 2006 stated that all contracts would incorporate fair payment practices including project bank accounts, where practicable and cost effective.

Further assessments have been carried out since 2006 and the decision was made that project bank accounts would not assist the delivery of 2012 Olympic construction projects.

Project bank accounts work well where the client lets all of the contracts and is responsible for payment and administering all the contracts. 2012 Olympic construction is broken down into a number of separate projects, each of which will be managed via a main, or 'tier one' contractor, who then lets subcontracts and has their own supply chain. The ODA, as a client, will not be responsible for the direct management or payment of the subcontractors appointed by the main contractor on each project. Some of the projects also involve private sector funding which would make use of a project bank account more difficult to administer.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Helen Southworth: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts have been let to companies in North West England for works associated with the construction of the Olympic park; what the value is of each such contract; and if she will make a statement. [184356]

Tessa Jowell: As of January 2008, 17 companies registered in the north west have supplied goods and services to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA); this includes two national companies, Network Rail and British Cycling.

The ODA is looking into whether it can legally put information about the value of each contract into the public domain. I will write to my hon. Friend as soon as this position has been clarified.

On 16 January, the Olympic Family launched the London 2012 Business Network in Manchester, helping businesses across the country access and compete for 2012 related contracts. Businesses in every constituency should be encouraged to sign up and get support.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many times she has sought approval from the Treasury for expenditure relating to the 2012 Olympics; and what the reason for that expenditure was in each case. [184786]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority requires approval from Treasury, the Mayor of London, and me as Minister for the Olympics, for expenditure on projects over £20 million. So far 19 projects have been approved.

Olympic Games 2012: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff work in the Government Olympic Executive; and what plans she has for the Executive's future staffing levels. [184427]

Tessa Jowell: There are currently 63 members of staff employed in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE).

The current planning assumption for GOE staffing levels, is to reach 88 members of staff by April 2011.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Licensing: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licensees in Northern Ireland were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of selling alcohol to underage drinkers in each of the last five years. [184726]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for offences which, by their definition, refer to the licensee selling alcohol to a minor.

As it is not possible from the databases to determine the status of those selling alcohol to a minor for all offences, Table 2 outlines the number of prosecutions and convictions for 'selling intoxicating liquor to a minor' and 'permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises'.

Data cover the calendar years 2002-06 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

I have been consulting on new provisions on test purchasing of alcohol as part of the draft Criminal Justice Order, which would help to improve the detection and prosecution of these offences. I shall be considering the responses received.

Table 1: Number of licensees prosecuted and convicted for selling alcohol to a minor 2002-06[1]

	Licensee selling intoxicating liquor to a minor		Licensee selling liquor to person for consumption by minor in licensed premises		Licensee selling liquor to person for consumption by minor off licensed premises	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
2002	1	1	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	1	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions for the offences of 'selling intoxicating liquor to a minor' and 'permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises' 2002-06[1]

	Selling intoxicating liquor to a minor		Permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises	
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
2002	3	1	0	0
2003	5	3	0	0
2004	7	2	0	0
2005	8	3	5	0
2006	5	3	0	0

[1] Data for 2006 are provisional

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Women Members

28. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality, what progress has been made in increasing the number of women in the House of Commons. [185142]

Barbara Follett: The Government are committed to working to bring about a more representative democracy. Women currently make up 20 per cent. of MPs compared to nine per cent. in 1997. Much of this change has been brought about by making it lawful to have women-only shortlists for selection.

Government Equalities Office

29. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality, what the budget of the Government Equalities Office will be in each of the next two financial years. [185143]

Barbara Follett: For GEO's future budget please refer to the Supplementary Budgetary Information tables to be published alongside the main estimates in April.

Equality Strategy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) when she expects to publish the equality strategy; [178738]

(2) when she expects to publish the responses her Department received to its consultation on proposals for an Equality Bill; [178737]

(3) what progress the Government Equalities Office has made on the production of a long-term strategy to tackle persistent inequalities; and if she will make a statement. [178735]

Barbara Follett: The Government equality strategy will be published in due course.

The Government are intending to publish a response to the consultation on the Equality Bill shortly and has given a manifesto commitment to introduce a new Equality Act during the lifetime of this Parliament and remains committed to doing this.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members Estimate Committee

37. **David Taylor:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent considerations the Members Estimate Committee has given to the pay scales of hon. Members' staff and their uprating. [185151]

Helen Goodman: The pay ranges applicable to Members' staff cover the seven generic job descriptions provided to Members as the basis for employing staff using the staffing allowance. These ranges have been uplifted each year since their introduction in 2001 by the increase in the average earnings index.

The Members Estimate Committee has not recently considered the pay ranges, although the evidence set out in the recent Senior Salaries Review Body report (Cm 7270) suggests that they are broadly fit for purpose and allow Members to recruit and retain staff in a competitive employment market.

The Members Estimate Committee was asked by the House on 24 January to implement the SSRB's recommendations for changes to the staffing allowance. The Committee will be considering this in its forthcoming meetings.

Topical Debates

38. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of topical debates. [185152]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Member to the response my right hon. Friend gave earlier today, *Official Report*, c. 1116.

Legislative Timetabling

39. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effect of timetabling of debates on constitutional issues on the scrutiny of such matters. [185153]

Helen Goodman: No such assessment has been carried out.

WALES

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the special advisers employed in his Department and its predecessor since 6 May 1997; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of employment was in each case. [184377]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS. Changes since will be recorded in the Prime Minister's next annual statement.

Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Official Engagements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many engagements he and his predecessor undertook in each month since January 2007. [185653]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Theft

8. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will estimate the value of losses resulting from theft from parish churches in each of the last three years. [185169]

Sir Stuart Bell: Based on insurance claims received by the main church insurer, I estimate losses amounting to £1.5 million in 2005, £2.4 million in 2006 and £8.7 million in 2007. The hon. Lady will be interested to note that around two-thirds of these claims related to the theft of lead from church roofs.

Investment Policy: Africa

10. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what discussions the Church Commissioners have had on their investment policy towards Africa. [185171]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners regularly consider potentially suitable investment opportunities in the region but they currently have no direct investments in Africa.

Parsonage Houses

11. **Mr. Benyon:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will make a statement on the transfer of the ownership of parsonage houses to diocesan boards of finance. [185172]

Sir Stuart Bell: As I said in my answer to the hon. Member for Salisbury (Robert Key), this proposal, recognising that housing is an important element in the terms of service of office holders, seeks the provision of appropriate accommodation and the establishment of a suitable framework governing the relationship between housing providers and office holders.

By way of a statement, I am aware that this particular provision is the most contentious part of the draft legislation. General Synod will consider it in some detail next week.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Comptroller and Auditor General

9. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what assessment the Public Accounts Commission has made of the arrangements for declaring and publishing the details of corporate hospitality received by the Comptroller and Auditor General; and if he will make a statement. [185170]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Commission established in July 2007 a system of six-monthly reports on hospitality given or received by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the information is also to be placed on the NAO's website at six-monthly intervals, at the middle and end of the financial year. The information so far published covers the period to the end of September 2007. In addition, the chairman of the NAO's Audit Committee, who is briefed in advance on planned expenses of the C and AG, has direct access to the Commission if there are issues he wishes to discuss. The Commission believes these arrangements will ensure transparency regarding the hospitality given or received by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will conduct a feasibility study into the effect of likely changes to staffing levels within the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2008-09 on its *(a)* finds recording and *(b)* educational outreach activities; and if he will make a statement. [185521]

Margaret Hodge: The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any study regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the British Museum. The MLA recognises that the PAS is of national importance and intends to conduct a review of the scheme in partnership with other stakeholders to ensure it can continue to thrive and evolve in the future.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of posts in the Portable Antiquities Scheme if funding for 2008-09 is maintained at current levels. [185522]

Margaret Hodge: I have made no assessment of the likely effect on staffing levels at the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) if funding is maintained at current levels. The PAS is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and administered on their behalf by the British Museum. Any assessment regarding the scheme is therefore a matter for the MLA and the British Museum. The MLA recognises that the PAS is of national importance and intends to conduct a review of the scheme in partnership with other stakeholders to ensure it can continue to thrive and evolve in the future.

Casinos: Licensing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many casinos were open and operating under licences granted through the Gaming Act 1968, in each year since 1996-97. [184637]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The list shows the number of casinos open and operating, under licences granted through the Gaming Act 1968, in Great Britain as at 31 March for each year since 1996-97 and at the latest available date.

To 31 March	*Number of casinos operating*
1997	116
1998	116
1999	116
2000	118
2001	118
2002	122
2003	126
2004	131
2005	138
2006	140
2007	138
29 January 2008	144

Christmas

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182450]

Margaret Hodge: The information has been provided by The Royal Parks. Information for years prior to 1999 is archived and available only at disproportionate costs. The available figures for cards are as follows:

	£
1999-2000	511.13
2000-01	7.90
2001-02	151.81
2002-03	1,167.96
2003-04	3,483.87
2004-05	3,400.21
2005-06	2,469.00
2006-07	1,527.00
2007-08	2,150.00

The Royal Parks does not have a specific Christmas card postage code within its chart of accounts and is unable to provide accurate postage costs.

In 2007-08 The Royal Parks issued an e-card as an alternative to a traditional printed card and therefore there were no postage costs for 2007-08.

Gambling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of gambling addiction since 1997. [182000]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Act 2005 places the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling as one of the principle objectives of gambling regulation for the first time.

The Act also establishes a powerful new regulator, the Gambling Commission, responsible for ensuring UK gambling operators are meeting the Government's licensing objectives. All gambling operators must comply with tough social responsibility measures, including procedures to prevent underage gambling and a commitment to contribute to research, education and treatment of problem gambling, or risk losing their licence.

The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 showed that the overall level of problem gambling remained unchanged since 1999 at 0.6 per cent. of the adult population. However, if there is evidence of increased problem gambling, or the objectives of the Act are not being met, the Government have wide-ranging powers to introduce further regulations and restrictions.

Horse Racing: Betting Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many written representations on the horserace betting levy he has received from hon. and right hon. Members in the last 12 months. [184494]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's records show that we received 28 written representations from hon. and right hon. Members that relate specifically to the 47th Levy Determination. We have received other written representations that relate more broadly to the work of the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

Northcott Theatre

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* his predecessor have had with the Minister for the South West on funding for the Northcott Theatre in Exeter.[1] [2] [183845]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions on this matter with the Minister for the South West.

The Department has received two letters from the Minister for the South West my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) in his capacity as a constituency Member about the Northcott Theatre and there has been one telephone conversation between the Minister for the South West and a senior official at the Department.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) and the Minister for the South West briefly discussed the matter in December.

It has been explained in all discussions that the Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to bring forward proposals to develop the legacy for mass participation in sport which is expected to result from the London 2012 Olympics. [184386]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* The Government have set a clear target of getting two million more people more active by 2012.

The Legacy Action Plan will set out the Government's high level strategy for delivering this ambition through sport and physical activity.

Sport England are developing a new strategy for a world-class community sports infrastructure and will produce a detailed business plan in late spring.

Sport England's work will feed into the wider cross-Government review of sport and physical activity led by the Treasury, which will be published in the spring.

This will clarify the roles and responsibilities of all the key organisations to meet the Government's two million target.

Performing Arts: Music

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government plans to take to support those performing live music. [181580]

Margaret Hodge: Following the Live Music Forum's recommendations, we have asked Feargal Sharkey, the ex-Chair of the forum, to work with local authorities, the music industry and other partners over the next two years to establish a number of pilot music rehearsal/performance spaces across the country. We have committed £500,000 to help kick start this initiative. At the same time we will work with the Mayor to see what can be done to ensure key music venues in London are not closed down, and helping the National Union of Students to re-establish a live music network. We are also exploring the scope for allowing live music performances which are unlikely to have an impact on the licensing objectives to be exempt from licensing requirements.

Public Libraries

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what records his Department and its agencies holds of the size of the book stock of municipal libraries. [184641]

Margaret Hodge: Public libraries are a locally managed and delivered service, but at a national level my Department continues to advocate for the valuable role they play in every community. Public library statistics 2006-07, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) on 14 January 2008, reports that England's public libraries held 81,215,800 books in stock at 31 March 2007. Copies of the report for previous years are held in the House Library.

Secondary Education: Sports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1906W, on secondary education: sports, what sports and activities are covered by the terms *(a)* high quality PE and school sports and *(b)* inter-school competition. [184804]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 20MC.]*

[2] *[Official Report, 4 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 23MC.]*

The annual PE and School Sport Survey is accompanied by guidance to support the completion of the questionnaire. The definition of high quality PE and out of hours school sport is:

> "this produces young people with the skills, understanding, desire and commitment to continue to improve and achieve in a range of PE, sport and health-enhancing physical activities, in line with their abilities, as set out in the 'High Quality PE and Sport for Young People' guide."

The definition of inter-school competition is:

> "a sporting event or fixture where pupils from two or more schools compete against each other. Pupils are usually selected by their school to compete as individuals or as part of a team. Common examples include matches in sports such as basketball, hockey and cricket; district athletics championships; cross country championships; area swimming/aquatic galas; and 5-a-side football tournaments."

A copy of the guide 'High Quality PE and Sport for Young People' has been placed in the House Libraries.

Sports: Learning Disability

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to improve opportunities for adults and children with a learning disability to *(a)* participate in sport and *(b)* develop their skills to enable them to achieve their sporting potential. [184332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England is currently developing a new strategy to focus on how it can build a world class community sports infrastructure through excellent clubs, coaches and volunteers for all. The new strategy will consider how participation of under-represented groups, including those with disabilities can be increased.

By developing an excellent community sports infrastructure Sport England will be better able to sustain and increase participation in all age groups and across a wide range of sports, and allow everyone to develop their sporting talents and fulfil their potential.

DCMS and DCSF are investing an additional £100 million into PE and school sport over the next three years to offer children aged 5-16 five hours of PE and sport each week; and three hours to young people aged 16-19. Part of this will fund the establishment of a network of multi-skills clubs for children with disabilities across all of the School Sport Partnerships.

Water Sports: Finance

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the sport of canoeing in the last five years. [184245]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Funding allocated to the sport of canoeing through Sport England and UK Sport in the last five years totalled £17,822,013 and is detailed in the table:

	Sport England	£ *UK Sport*
Exchequer	3,580,666	2,491,414
Lottery	5,881,818	5,868,115

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department allocated to *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Caddington parish, *(c)* Slip End parish and *(d)* East Hyde parish in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the funding was in each case. [184224]

John Healey: The following table sets out the funding made available by the Department to Luton borough council since 2002-03.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million* *Total*
Supporting People Programme	0.187	4.873	4.814	4.555	4.492	4.646	23.567
ERDF	0.036	6.987	4.084	2.888	3.096	5.840	22.931
Planning Delivery Grant	—	0.203	0.337	0.214	0.566	0.437	1.757
Homelessness programme	0.096	0.096	0.080	0.100	0.120	0.120	0.612
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.324	0.680	0.450	0.444	0.586	0.454	2.938
Gypsy Site Grant	—	—	—	—	0.008	—	0.008
Choice-based lettings	—	—	—	—	0.100	—	0.100
Growth Areas Programme[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.924
LA Supported Capital Expenditure for Housing	—	—	1.967	2.197	—	1.756	5.920
Regional Housing Pots	—	—	—	—	0.340	0.342	0.682
Revenue Support Grants[2]	91.000	108.519	120.774	120.876	11.670	10.833	463.672
National Non Domestic Rate payments	56.327	56.000	51.721	61.705	60.457	64.550	350.760
Local Area Agreements	—	—	—	—	0.000	0.161	0.161
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund programme	1.100	1.500	1.500	1.510	—	—	5.610
Total	149.070	178.858	185.727	194.489	81.435	89.139	905.642

[1] Total allocation for the Growth Area Programme since 2003-04 is £26.924 million. This cannot be easily split by year. The allocation is for pump-priming housing projects for local areas.

[2] From 2006-07 Revenue Support Grants were reduced due to the transfer of funding to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for Dedicated School Grant.

The majority of the funding in each year comprises Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates payments which accounted for £814 million in total (90 per cent.). Since 1989, business rates collected by local authorities have been pooled nationally and redistributed by the Department to individual local authorities. Non Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant provide the main source of revenue funding for local authorities, neither is hypothecated (designated) for a particular service—they support all core services.

For the parishes of Caddington, Slip End and East Hyde, no direct payments by this Department have been identified since 2002-03.

Information on funding prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much she *(a)* has given in the last three financial years and *(b)* plans to give in the next three financial years to local authorities in (i) Essex and (ii) England to restore cliff slippages that threaten *(A)* rail and *(B)* road links; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [174072]

(2) under what legislation she has power to fund local authorities to restore cliff slippages that threaten *(a)* rail and *(b)* road links; and if she will make a statement; [174073]

(3) what recent *(a)* meetings she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from Southend borough council on cliff slippages that threaten (i) rail and (ii) road links; what the *(A)* location and *(B)* duration was of each meeting; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if she will make a statement; [174074]

(4) what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on cliff slippages that threaten (i) rail and (ii) road links; and if she will make a statement; [174075]

(5) what discussions she *(a)* has had in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to have in the next 12 months with other Departments to discuss cliff slippage in Southend; and if she will make a statement. [174076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport provided £1 million funding to Southend borough council in January 2008 for highway repairs to prevent damage occurring to rail and road links from a cliff slippage. The Department of Transport met with officials from the authority and their consultant prior to the submission of a business case by the authority seeking this funding. No record was made of the meeting which took place in Southend.

The funding for this highway maintenance scheme will be provided under Section 31 of Local Government Act 2003.

The Department has not conducted any specific research on cliff slippages that threaten rail and road links. The Highway Agency have supported research on chalk cliff stability and are aware of current research on this subject being conducted by Brighton University through the INTERREG 'Inform' project. This knowledge is being used to assist trunk road maintenance plans and the development of road schemes.

Southend borough council has raised cliff stabilisation issues in the borough with the Department for Communities and Local Government in the context of the Thames Gateway programme and in respect of the regeneration plans for the area. Government resilience policy for events which result from incidents of instability are a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

We have not had any other discussions on cliff slippages in Southend with other Departments in the last 12 months and none are planned in the next 12 months.

Council Housing: Eligibility

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes there have been to the eligibility requirements for local authority social housing since May 1997. [171570]

Mr. Iain Wright: Eligibility requirements for social housing allocated by local authorities were first introduced in the Housing Act 1996 and amended by the Homelessness Act 2002. These provide that:

> Local authorities may treat an applicant as ineligible for an allocation of social housing if satisfied that the applicant, or a member of his/her household, has been guilty of unacceptable behaviour serious enough to make him/her unsuitable to be a tenant of the authority.
>
> Persons subject to immigration control are not eligible for social housing unless they come within a class of persons prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State.
>
> The Secretary of State may make regulations to prescribe other classes of persons from abroad as ineligible for an allocation.

To coincide with accession to the European Union of the 10 Accession States in May 2004, the eligibility rules in respect of persons from abroad not subject to immigration control (European Economic Area (EEA) nationals[1]) were tightened up by regulations[2].

Consolidating regulations made in 2006[3] made further changes to the eligibility of EEA nationals. These changes principally reflect the implementation of EU Directive 2004/38/EC by the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. In particular, as a result of these changes EEA nationals are not eligible for an allocation of housing or homelessness assistance if their only right to reside:

> is an initial right to reside for up to three months from arrival; or
>
> is for the period during which a jobseeker has a genuine prospect of finding employment.

These regulations were further amended in 2006[4] to take account of the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU in January 2007 and introduce additional eligibility restrictions for nationals of Bulgaria and Romania.

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[1] Under special agreements, EU Treaty rights are extended to nationals of the three countries within the European Economic Area which are not members of the EU (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), and to Switzerland.

[2] The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1235).

[3] The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) Regulations (SI 2006/1294).

[4] The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/3340).

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by her Department and its agencies; and what revenue their use generated in each year for which figures are available. [180715]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government and its agencies has one non-geographical telephone number to provide information to homeowners in relation to Energy Performance Certificates (0845 365 2468). A third party manages this service on behalf of the Department. The Department does not derive any revenue from this service.

Empty Property: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on empty houses by market renewal programmes in 2007. [184764]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property: Prisoners

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether empty dwellings management orders can be made in respect of properties the owner of which is serving a custodial sentence; and what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on the issue. [185301]

Mr. Iain Wright: The circumstances in which a property is excluded from the power to make an Empty Dwelling Management Order are set out in the relevant legislation, namely sections 132-134 and Schedule 6 of the Housing Act 2004.

There is no specific exception contained within the legislation relating to circumstances where the owner of a dwelling is serving a prison sentence. The matter would therefore be at the discretion of the local authority which would have regard to all the other relevant exceptions that might be applicable.

Energy: Consumption

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate her Department has made of the average consumption of *(a)* mains gas and *(b)* electricity from the national grid by an average sized home built to (i) minimum building regulation standards, (ii) Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, (iii) Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and (iv) Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [184237]

Mr. Iain Wright: The standards for the energy performance of homes in the Code for Sustainable Homes are specified in terms of emissions. The relevant emissions rates are expressed as improvements against the standards set in the Building Regulations Approved Document L (2006) and measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).

In 2005, the latest year for which figures are available, carbon dioxide emissions from the household sector were 148.5 million tonnes. The target emission rate for an average home meeting the standards in Part L of the Building Regulations 2006 is 0.553 tonnes of carbon per annum. For an average home (broadly defined as a semi-detached house with a gas-fired central heating boiler and a floor area of 88.8 metres squared)-this equates to approximately 8300 kWh of gas and 983 kWh of electricity.

To meet Code level 3, a house will have to be designed and built to achieve a 25 per cent. improvement on this rate. To meet Code Level 4, a house will have to be designed and built to achieve a 44 per cent. improvement on the 2006 Part L target emission rate.

Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Government have to review Green Belt protection. [176498]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policies for the protection of Green Belt are set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2. There are no plans to review those policies.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to set a date for the implementation of home information packs on one and two bedroom properties; whether energy performance certificates (EPCs) will be required for *(a)* commercial and *(b)* one and two bedroom domestic properties; when EPCs will be introduced; whether home condition reports will be mandatory; whether training grants will be available to inspectors to assist with ongoing training costs; and if she will make a statement. [163104]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: Home information packs were extended to the remainder of the market on 14 December 2007.

EPCs are being introduced for the sale, rent or construction of non-domestic buildings over 10,000 m^2 from April 2008; over 2,500 m^2 from July 2008; and for the remainder from October 2008. EPCs for the marketed sales of dwellings have been introduced as part of the Home Information Pack; they will be introduced on construction of new dwellings from April 2008 and on new rentals of dwellings from October 2008.

We have always said that the Home Condition Report is a valuable element of the pack. We are adopting a market-led rather than mandatory roll-out of HCRs. The HCR is one of a number of options being considered with stakeholders as part of our work on the wider reform of home buying and selling.

Training for energy assessors is provided by the market, and it is for assessors to choose the package which best suits their plans.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee's Fifth Report of 11 December 2007 on the Home Information Pack (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2007 and the submissions in Appendix I, for what reason her Department has not published the research and data by MORI into home information packs. [180162]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1526-527W.

Ipsos-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on home information packs from the public purse to date, broken down by main budget heading; and what is the budget for the remainder of financial year 2007-08. [176323]

Caroline Flint: An update was given to the hon. Member on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1801W. Since then, HIPs expenditure has been as follows:

	HIP programme spend (£)
Administration costs	292,773
Legal fees	—
Outside expertise	27,430
Website costs	—
Area trials	—
Research	32,229
Communications, publicity and publishing	344,523
Agency staff	24,520
Other costs	39,387
Total	760,863

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what interim information her Department has received from Ipsos-MORI on the home information pack trials. [183243]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1526-527W.

Ipsos-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

Housing Market: Expenditure

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the market renewal programme has spent in total on each unit constructed for the period for which figures have most recently been collected. [184725]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Market: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she plans to issue to stakeholders on the account to be taken of market renewal programmes in developing regional spatial strategies; and if she will make a statement. [184651]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing Market Renewal Partnerships, like all initiatives which have a spatial expression, inform the drafting and revision of regional spatial strategies (RSSs). PPS11 'Regional Spatial Planning' is the Government guidance which sets out how RSSs are produced. The existence of a Housing Market Renewal Partnership in a region will inform the evidence base which in turn informs the drafting and revision of an RSS. This can then be tested at the Examination in Public of selected matters arising from representations on the draft RSS.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local planning authorities are *(a)* expected and *(b)* obliged to levy affordable housing contributions on all applications that are classified as a sui generis use in the context of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes Order) 1987. [185047]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 120W.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 142W, on housing: standards, what regional house building targets were set out for each Government office region per year since 1997-98 in each Regional Planning Guidance document that was in force prior to the publication of the Sustainable Communities Plan in 2003. [180196]

Mr. Iain Wright: Regional planning guidance documents were in force until September 2004, after which they were translated into regional spatial strategies. These are currently being reviewed. The indicative additional housing units set out in RPGs over their life-time was as follows:

RPG	*Publication date*	*RPG life-time*	*Total additional units*
1. North East			
North East had two RPGs in 1997-98:			
RPG 1(Tyne and Wear)	April 1989	1989-2001	30,100
RPG7(Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland)	September 1993	1991-2006	50,500
Final version of the North East's RSS:			
RPG 1(North East)	November 2002	2002-2016	85,250
2. North West			
RPG 13 (North West)	April 1996	1996-2011	160,500
Final version of the North West's RSS:			
RPG13 (North West)	March 2003	2003-2016	166,270
3. Yorkshire and Humber			
RPG12 (Yorkshire/Humber)	March 1996	1991-2006	249,000
Final version of the Yorkshire and Humber's RSS			
RPG 12 (Yorkshire/Humber):	October 2001	2001-2016	221,475
4. East Midlands			
RPG 8 (East Midlands)	March 1994	1991-2011	169,000
Final version of the East Midland's RSS:			
RPG 8(East Midlands)	January 2002	2002-2021	260,300
5. West Midlands			
RPG 11(West Midlands)	April 1998	1991-2021	335,000
Final version of West Midland's RSS:			
RPG 11 (West Midlands)	June 2004	2004-2021	257,660
6. East of England			
RPG 6 (East of England, excluding Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)	March 1994	1991-2006	145,005
Final version of the East of England's RSS:			
RPG 6 (East of England, excluding Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)	November 2000	2000-2016	158,400
7. South East			
RPG 9[1](South East, including London, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)	March 1994	1991-2006	855,000
Final version of the South East's RSS:			
RPG9 (South East, including Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex)	March 2001	2001-2016	585,000
8. South West			
RPG10 (South West)	July 1994	1991-2011	438,000
Final version of the South West's RSS:			
RPG10 (South West)	September 2001	2001-2016	303,000

[1] In 1997-98 RPG9 covered the "Greater South East" which included as well as the existing South East, Greater London and the counties of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

Local Government: Elections

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many citizens were registered to vote in local elections in England at the most recent date for which figures are available. [182560]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many citizens were registered to vote in local elections in England at the most recent date for which figures are available (182560).

38,223,259 people were registered to vote in local elections in England on 1 December 2006. This includes the number of attainers, and is the most recent data available.

Electoral counts for 1 December 2007 will be published on 28 February 2008.

Planning Permission: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of planning permissions in Halifax constituency that went to appeal were overturned in the last five years. [184721]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate's data base is not able to identify a population of planning appeals determined within a constituency boundary. Therefore, the following table gives information on the number planning appeals (following applications for planning permission) where the decision of Calderdale metropolitan borough council was overturned i.e. the appeal was allowed, for the years 2003 to 2007, which includes the Halifax area.

	Number of planning appeals determined	*Percentage of planning appeals allowed*
2003	35	23
2004	38	24
2005	50	16
2006	58	28
2007	91	22

Planning Permission: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to place a duty on planning authorities to take into account community involvement when making decisions on planning permission for renewable energy schemes. [184201]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how communities will be engaged in the planning process including how they will be consulted on planning applications. An SCI needs to cover the legal requirements for consultation and publicity set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

We have no plans to introduce an additional duty as described in the question.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of renewable energy projects dealt with by local planning authorities *(a)* were turned down and *(b)* had decisions pending in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of each category had been considered by (i) national park authorities and (ii) (A) Labour, (B) Conservative, (C) Liberal Democrat and (D) independently led councils. [184204]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the calendar year 2007, 34 planning applications for renewable energy projects were determined by local planning authorities in England. Of these, 35 per cent. were refused planning permission. As of 31 December 2007, there were 80 submitted and undetermined planning applications with local planning authorities in England. In 2007 there were no submitted planning applications for renewable energy projects awaiting determination or determined by national park authorities in England. The data disaggregated by controlling political party are as follows:

Percentage

	Labour	*Conservative*	*Liberal Democrat*	*Independent*	*No Overall Control*	*Total*
Percentage of all planning applications for renewable energy projects refused planning permission by local planning authorities in England in 2007	0	58 (7)	0	0	42 (5)	100 (12)
Percentage of all submitted and undetermined planning applications for renewable energy projects with local planning authorities in England as of 31/12/07	15 (12)	44 (35)	5 (4)	1(1)	35 (28)	100 (80)

Notes:
1 Data source is the Renewable Energy Statistics Database (www.restats.org.uk).
2 Renewable energy projects are projects of over 0.01MW.
3 Percentages are rounded. 4 Figures in brackets are numbers of planning applications.

Quarrying: Planning Permission

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals against planning decisions to allow gravel extraction have been made in the last 10 years; and how many of those appeals have been allowed. [185217]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table gives information on the number of planning appeals concerning sand and gravel extraction determined by the Planning Inspectorate for the period since 2000. The Inspectorate's data base can only interrogate for data from the year 2000 and cannot identify appeals relating solely for gravel extraction.

	Total number of appeals	*Number of appeals allowed*
2000	5	3
2001	4	3
2002	4	3
2003	8	3
2004	1	0
2005	0	0
2006	2	2
2007	6	5

Religious Buildings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received on permissions *(a)* granted to and *(b)* withheld from mosques by local authorities to broadcast by loudspeaker the call to prayer; and if she will make a statement. [184092]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has not received any representations on permissions granted to or withheld from mosques by local authorities to broadcast by loudspeaker the call to prayer.

Representing the Future

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will publish its response to the report of the Councillors Commission on representing the future; and if she will make a statement. [184228]

John Healey: The Government will respond to the Councillors Commission report in the spring.

RLW: Cambridgeshire

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from representatives of RLW in relation to the proposed development in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire; and what meetings her Department's representatives have had with that company. [183321]

Caroline Flint: Royal London Waterbeach Ltd. (RLW) has written to Ministers and officials on a number of occasions since 2003 about its development proposals at Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire. Officials met with representatives of RLW in 2004 to discuss the future process for the East of England Plan, but not the merits of the proposed development.

As one of a number of housing initiatives under way the Government are considering eco-towns, and as part of this have sought expressions of interest from developers and local authorities. To reveal the details of recent meetings and representations from developers when this process is underway would have the potential to be detrimental to the process, and those that have put forward eco-towns proposals.

Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of each grant provided by her Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, *(b)* Shropshire County Council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin Borough Council in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and what grants have been planned for 2008-09. [184108]

John Healey: The following tables set out the value of each grant paid by this Department to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, *(b)* Shropshire county council and *(c)* Telford and the Wrekin borough council since 2006 and planned payments in 2008-09 for those programmes where known or announced under the Local Government Settlement.

All figures in tables in pounds million.

Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council

	2006-07	*2007-8*	*Planned for 2008-09*	*Total*
Defect Loans Charges	0.025	0.006	—	0.031
New Growth Points	0.000	0.200	—	0.200
Growth Fund	—	—	1.974	1.974
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.265	0.278	—	0.543
Gypsy Site Grant	0.008	0.000	—	0.008
Homelessness	0.035	0.030	0.030	0.095
Local Government Capacity Building	0.048	0.070	—	0.118
Planning Delivery Grant	0.173	0.286	—	0.459
Regional Housing Pot Grant	0.000	0.255	—	0.255
Revenue Support Grant	1.151	1.022	0.884	3.057
National Non Domestic Rates	5.911	6.088	6.347	18.346
Total	7.616	8.235	9.235	25.086

Shropshire county council

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*Planned for 2008-09*	*Total*
Bellwin	—	0.874	—	0.874
Defect Loans Charges	3.029	0.440	—	3.469
European Regional Development Fund	3.185	0.964	—	4.149
Local Area Agreements	7.222	9.340	—	16.562
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives	0.443	0.105	—	0.548
Local Government Capacity Building	0.096	0.119	—	0.215
National Non Domestic Rates	44.705	47.235	55.705	147.645
Private Finance Initiative Special Grant	1.459	1.871	—	3.330
Planning Delivery Grant	0.105	0.076	—	0.181
Revenue Support Grant	8.689	7.927	7.755	24.371
Supporting People	6.501	6.576	6.564	19.641
Total	75.434	75.527	70.024	220.985

Telford and the Wrekin borough council

	2007-07	*2007-08*	*Planned for 2008-09*	*Total*
Defect Loans Charges	2.199	0.493	—	2.692
Disabled Facilities Grant	0.470	0.494	—	0.964
New Growth Points	0.000	0.205	—	0.205
European Regional Development Fund	3.147	4.180	—	7.327
Gypsy Site Grant	0.008	0.000	—	0.008
Homelessness	0.055	0.100	0.055	0.210
Local Area Agreements	7.088	8.693	—	15.781
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives	0.970	0.801	—	1.771
Local Government Capacity Building	0.096	0.085	—	0.181
National Non Domestic Rates	45.183	48.405	56.219	149.807
Private Finance Initiative Special Grant	4.640	4.394	—	9.034
Planning Delivery Grant	0.319	0.289	0.055	0.663
Regional Housing Pots	2.021	2.776	—	4.797
Revenue Support Grant	9.059	8.123	7.826	25.008
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	0.296	—	—	0.296
Supporting People	3.971	4.039	4.033	12.043
Total	79.522	83.077	68.188	230.787

For the Department's associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies, the information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to give equal recognition in planning policy to the renewable wood sector and wood processing sector and the renewable electricity industry generally; and if she will require local authorities to have regard to strategic energy needs in determining planning policy. [185476]

Mr. Iain Wright: We published in December 2007 a new planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change. This expects regional planning bodies and all local planning authorities to plan for, and support, renewable and low-carbon energy. The PPS will help the development of renewable energy by, for example, expecting regional targets for renewable energy generation to fully reflect opportunities in the region. Planning authorities are advised that they should not require applicants to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for renewable energy must be sited in a particular location. Explanations of the terms used in the PPS are set out in its glossary. This makes it clear that renewable and low-carbon energy supplies include "those from biomass and energy crops".

Thames Gateway: Domestic Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* receptions, *(b)* dinners and *(c)* conferences and seminars that included receptions or meals, have been attended by the Chief Executive of Thames Gateway, in her official capacity; since her appointment. [162608]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Judith Armitt started as Thames Gateway Chief Executive in November 2006. It was an important part of her work to develop a relationship with stakeholders across the Thames Gateway.

In terms of receptions/dinners/conferences and seminars, on average Judith Armitt attended just under two such events per month in her time as Chief Executive. From November 2006 to November 2007 she attended the following receptions/dinners or conferences and seminars:

2006

20 November—UK Major Ports Group reception

22 November—Thames Gateway Forum

30 November—Bexley annual business dinner

4 December—BBC South East sport awards (reception)

2007

11 January—London Government Dinner

30 January—MP's dinner

13 March—Crest Nicholson and UKTI dinners at MIPIM conference

20 March—Bell Pottinger Dinner

28 March—Sustainable Communities awards ceremony and dinner

26 April—National Express Board of Directors Dinner

2 May—Speaker at EP Women's Development Programme

7 June—IdeA awards dinner for sustainable communities

18 June—Chemistry Club Private Dinner

10 July—Thames Gateway Parliamentary Group Reception

17 July—Natural England dinner

4 September—London First Summer Party

6 September—David Morley architects reception

10 October—TGSEP Board—Annual Dinner

30 October—EP Annual Dinner

31 October—Trafalgar Dinner Chatham

6 November—Opening of St. Pancras

Joe Montgomery, as Director General, Regions and Communities, now has direct responsibility for the Thames Gateway Executive and coordinates the work of Government Departments and agencies in the Gateway. Meeting stakeholders is an important part of this role, and it is normal to attend receptions, dinners and conferences from time to time in order to do so. All hospitality is undertaken in accordance with the civil service management code.

Thames Gateway: Public Appointments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process will be used to select the *(a)* interim chief executive and *(b)* permanent chief executive of the Thames Gateway Delivery Unit. [174458]

Caroline Flint: On 10 January 2008, Yvette Cooper informed the House that a range of housing and regeneration delivery functions currently undertaken by the Thames Gateway Executive (TGE) will transfer to the new Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Subject to the passage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill, the HCA will take on these functions when it comes into operation in April 2009. From that date onwards, Sir Bob Kerslake, the first chief executive officer of the HCA, will assume responsibility for delivery in the Thames Gateway.

On 29 November 2007, the Prime Minister launched the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan which set out a programme of over £9 billion cross-Government investment in the Thames Gateway. Joe Montgomery, director-general for regions and communities in the Department for Communities and Local Government, assumed direct responsibility for the TGE in December 2007. Until the HCA comes into operation, Mr. Montgomery will be responsible for driving forward the commitments made in the Delivery Plan and will work closely with the emerging HCA team to ensure a smooth transition to the new agency. Under these arrangements, it is not intended that the TGE should be led by a chief executive.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how she plans to fill the post of Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway; what the time scale is for filling the post; what interim arrangement will be made until the post is filled; whether she expects any consequential reorganisation to be necessary in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [174387]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* On 10 January 2008, Yvette Cooper informed the House that a range of housing and regeneration delivery functions currently undertaken by the Thames Gateway Executive (TGE) will transfer to the new Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Subject to the passage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill, the HCA will take on these functions when it comes into operation in April 2009. From that date onwards, Sir Bob Kerslake, the first chief executive officer of the HCA, will assume responsibility for delivery in the Thames Gateway.

On 29 November 2007, the Prime Minister launched the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan which set out a programme of over £9 billion cross-Government investment in the Thames Gateway. Joe Montgomery, director-general for regions and communities in the Department for Communities and Local Government, assumed direct responsibility for the TGE in December 2007. Mr. Montgomery retains his seat on the Department's board. Until the HCA comes into operation, Mr. Montgomery will be responsible for driving forward the commitments made in the Delivery Plan and will work closely with the emerging HCA team to ensure a smooth transition to the new agency. Under these arrangements, it is not intended that TGE should be led by a chief executive.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the reasons for the resignation of the Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway. [174388]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* All civil servants are employed under terms and conditions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. Responsibility for personnel matters within the Department is delegated to the permanent secretary.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the sponsors are of the housing growth and eco-towns regional seminars arranged by her Department and the Town and Country Planning Association; whether any of the sponsors are potential developers of eco-towns; and what guidelines she has issued over potential conflicts of interest between her Department and the Town and Country Planning Association and potential eco-town developers. [185457]

Caroline Flint: The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) is arranging a series of regional seminars on eco-towns and the promotion of good practice in planning for sustainability in these and similar schemes with support from my Department and I understand a number of other public and private organisations. These events are open to all and are concerned with general principles and good practice, not individual site based proposals.

To manage potential conflicts of interest the TCPA has ensured a broad range of partners are engaged in the seminar series from the public and the private sectors and a protocol of roles and responsibilities between TCPA and Communities and Local Government has been drawn up and is publicly available on the TCPA website.

The TCPA's role on eco-towns is to advise on the practical application of the key sustainability and development criteria for schemes and they are not involved in the process of assessing bids and selecting schemes.

Wetlands: Conservation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local planning authorities on the protection of wetland sites of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. [185230]

Mr. Iain Wright: ODPM Circular 06/2005 "Biodiversity and Geological Conservation-Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system" sets out administrative guidance on the application of legislation relating to planning and nature conservation in England. This includes the specific requirements set by European Directives and the procedures to be followed by local planning authorities. As a matter of policy the Government have chosen to apply many of these same procedures in respect of sites designated under the Ramsar Convention, thereby assisting the UK Government in fully meeting their obligations in respect of this Convention.

National planning policy on nature conservation is contained in Planning Policy Statement 9 "Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation" (ODPM 2005) and is supported by a separate guide to good practice published in 2006.

Written Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to question 162608, on the Chief Executive of Thames Gateway tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 6 November 2007. [174344]

Caroline Flint: I have now replied to my hon. Friend's question.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payment cheques were issued by the Rural Payments Agency for less than *(a)* £60, *(b)* £40, *(c)* £20, *(d)* £10 and *(e)* £1 in each year since 2001. [178782]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* The single payment scheme (SPS) was introduced in 2005 and RPA started making SPS payments in 2006.

		Number of payments
Band	*SPS 2005*	*SPS 2006*
£40.01-£60.00	4,356	2,417
£20.01-£40.00	4,920	1,861
£10.01-£20.00	1,812	546
£1.01-£10.00	639	80
£0.01-£1.00	58	2

SPS 2007 payments are still being made and so we cannot provide equivalent figures at this stage.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners on Common Agricultural Policy support payments in (i) Nottinghamshire and (ii) the East Midlands in the last year for which figures are available. [183863]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* Detailed analysis of the amount of Single Payment Scheme payments paid to farmers and landowners in Nottinghamshire and East Midlands in the last year is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the discrepancies between levels of avian influenza recorded in the British Isles and those recorded in mainland Europe; and if he will make a statement. [184076]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* Sporadic outbreaks of avian influenza are ongoing across Europe, and disease has been found in both domestic and wild birds in locations across the continent.

Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in wild birds is part of a coordinated European initiative and has been carried out in all European member states since 2005. It provides an early warning of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses in the UK in wild birds and an assessment of the risk of introduction into domestic poultry.

Geographical and biological variations between member states can account for differences in the potential for H5N1 infection and the detection of outbreaks. There are also different ways that outbreaks in wild birds are reported to the OIE by certain member states in comparison with outbreaks in poultry. In wild birds, each separate incident, even if only a single case, may be recorded as a separate outbreak while domestic poultry outbreaks are recorded by separate premises which may include hundreds or thousands of birds.

DEFRA monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases, including avian influenza, worldwide and assesses risks to the UK. These assessments are available on the DEFRA website.

Avian Influenza: Testing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* wild and *(b)* farm birds were tested for the H5N1 virus in each of the last five years. [179930]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Surveillance for avian influenza viruses in domestic poultry and wild birds is part of a European initiative and is carried out in all European Union member states.

The objective of the wild bird survey is to provide an early warning if highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses are introduced into the UK. The domestic poultry survey is to detect the incidence of infection with avian influenza virus subtypes H5 and H7 in different species of poultry.

Since 2003 (when the Domestic Poultry Survey started) we have tested the following numbers of domestic poultry:

	Total
2003	5,990
2004	8,666
2005	6,700
2006	9,080
2007	6,600

These numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on a range of factors, for example the viability of premises tested.

In addition we tested a further 3,413 poultry in 2006 and 11,165 poultry in 2007 following avian influenza outbreaks.

We did not routinely test wild birds for avian influenza until the emergence of the disease in wild birds in Europe in 2005. Since then we have tested live birds, birds found dead and those shot through wildfowling activities. The numbers we have tested since 2005 are as follows:

	Live trapped	*Shot*	*Found dead*	*Total*
2005	2,209	330	207	2,746
2006	2,904	659	9,375	12,938
2007	3,742	590	1,934	7,594

We have targeted the surveillance programme to areas where there is a greater abundance of both domestic poultry and those wild bird species that experts believe to have a greater potential role in the spread of avian influenza viruses. This is to make the programme as effective as possible. We have also increased the level of live bird testing. Over 2,000 patrols have been undertaken since the start of this migration period in September/October 2007 at over 200 sites. No reductions have been made to active patrolling or testing and in some areas patrolling has been increased due to national and international avian influenza incidents.

Beef: Imports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the import of beef and beef products from Brazil; and if he will make a statement. [183748]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK's primary objective is to ensure that imports coming into the UK do not pose a disease risk. We are, therefore, supportive of the action the Commission is taking in relation to beef exports from Brazil. The current action is not an outright ban. It does however, require Brazil to meet additional requirements which will mean that only a limited number of premises can export.

This follows an inspection mission carried out by the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) back in November 2007. Deficiencies were found and in view of these findings the Commission proposed an amendment to the rules for export of beef to the EU from Brazil.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to improve surveillance against bluetongue disease. [183790]

Jonathan Shaw: We have taken advice from the National Emergency Epidemiology Group and are actively discussing the detail of our bluetongue surveillance strategy with other experts and stakeholders.

Surveillance must be targeted effectively and we are making good use of data from existing infected premises, tracings, report cases and pre-movement testing. Further targeted surveillance may be considered if necessary.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expected reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the 2008 to 2011 Carbon Emissions Reduction Target is; how this figure has been calculated; and if he will make a statement. [184234]

Mr. Woolas: The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is one of the most cost-effective approaches to carbon abatement. We expect the CERT target of 154 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO$_2$) lifetime to deliver savings of around 4.2 MtCO$_2$ a year by 2010. This is equivalent to the emissions from 733,600 homes.

DEFRA has calculated the savings as follows:

For each measure approved by Ofgem for the scheme, DEFRA has commissioned the Building Research Establishment to calculate carbon savings for an average-sized home. Since carbon savings depend on the heating system of the house, different heating systems have been taken into account (gas, electric, oil etc).

After 18 months of consultation with major stakeholders, DEFRA has made its assessment of how the relevant industries could expand over the CERT period. Using this information, we estimated how many of each of the major measures could be installed over this period. The target set is challenging but achievable. Meeting it will require a near doubling of the current rate of insulation and a large increase in low energy lighting.

Cetaceans: Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the total number was of cetacean bycatches of each type and species in UK waters, broken down by International Council for the Exploration of the Sea area in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [184778]

(2) what the bycatch of harbour porpoises by UK licensed fishing vessels in the *(a)* Celtic Sea and *(b)* North Sea was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [184805]

(3) what the cetacean bycatch of each type and species was in UK waters in 2006-07, broken down by the country of origin of the vessel responsible; and if he will make a statement. [184806]

Jonathan Shaw: The 2007 UK report to the Commission on observed cetacean by-catch levels in certain fisheries, as required by Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004, includes estimates of common dolphin and harbour porpoise by-catch in the south-west for 2005 and 2006 in gillnet, tangle net and bass midwater pair trawls. There are no annual estimates of by-catch available for these fisheries in this region since 1997. The UK is not due to report to the European Commission on 2006-07 observed by-catch levels until June.

It is for each member state to monitor by-catch on their own vessels and submit their findings to the European Commission.

Estimated total dolphin by-catch 2005-06

	SW Waters (ICES Div VII e, f, g, h) (95 per cent. confidence limits)	
Metier/Area	*2005*	*2006*
Gillnets	83 (29-166)	113 (39-225)
Tangle nets	138 (55-232)	431 (172-722)
Bass Pair Trawl	155 (147-165)	40 (38-43)

Estimated total porpoise bycatch 2005-06

	SW Waters (ICES Div VII e, f, g, h) (95 per cent. confidence limits)	
Metier/Area	*2005*	*2006*
Gillnets	389 (225-581)	529 (306-789)
Tangle nets	64 (25-105)	199 (69-328)

In ICES areas VI a and IV no by-catches have been observed despite intensive sampling in pelagic trawls.

In ICES areas IV a, b, c (North Sea) by-catch rates measured in the late 1990s are used to estimate current likely levels of overall by-catch based on current levels of fishing effort in tangle and gillnet fisheries.

Estimates of porpoise by-catch in North Sea Static Gear 1998-2005

	North Sea IV a, b, c	*Lower 95 per cent.*	*Upper 95 per cent.*
1998	609	477	1,017
1999	588	492	926
2000	531	463	774
2001	484	403	718
2002	439	371	640
2003	391	315	602
2004	438	363	648
2005	386	293	619
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available

Estimates of by-catch in ICES area VI a based on 1997-98 observations have only been done up to 2002.

Estimates of porpoise bycatch in Div VI a Static Gear 1998-2002

	West Coast VI-a	*Lower 95 per cent.*	*Upper 95 per cent.*
1998	101	74	165
1999	45	25	68
2000	64	42	102
2001	43	32	73
2002	48	25	68

I take the problem of cetacean by-catch very seriously. DEFRA puts significant resources into by-catch monitoring and research into by-catch mitigation measures and cetacean strandings. However, the nature of fisheries means that a solution to cetacean by-catch can only be achieved on a European scale and I will continue to work towards this.

Climate Change

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking in concert with the UK's partners in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure that the international road map on climate change will *(a)* complement economic development in the poorest nations and *(b)* provide protection for those countries expected to be most affected by climate change. [184962]

Mr. Woolas: The Bali Action Plan, agreed at the United Nations Climate Change conference in Bali in 2007, commits developed and developing countries over the next two years to negotiate a global climate deal by 2009. Mitigation action by developing countries should be in the context of sustainable development. Discussions under the Bali Action Plan will cover improving access to financial resources and investment to support mitigation and adaptation including adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources; the provision of new and additional resources; and official and concessional funding for developing countries.

It is widely acknowledged that the current level of financial support to help developing countries adapt to climate change is inadequate, although estimates vary widely. The Bali Action Plan will discuss financial and technical support for adaptation in developing counties, particularly the most vulnerable ones.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180215]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has adopted a selective disclosure log. Where information is disclosed to an individual in response to a request under the FOI Act, Departments and NDPBs have been advised to consider whether the information disclosed is of general interest and include released information in a disclosure log as part of the publication scheme. A disclosure log is a web-based list of FOI requests together with links to the documents released in response to them and including descriptions of the information.

The figures since 2005 are set out in the following table:

Quarter	*Requests answered partially or fully*	*In disclosure log*	*Percentage*
Q1-2005	203	14	7
Q2-2005	107	11	10
Q3-2005	72	7	10
Q4-2005	80	5	6
Q1-2006	85	13	15
Q2-2006	57	5	9
Q3-2006	90	8	9
Q4-2006	70	10	14
Q1-2007	75	8	11
Q2-2007	44	3	7
Q3-2007	37	0	0

Departmental Marketing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1390W, on departmental marketing, whether the plastic bags purchased by his Department are biodegradable. [183154]

Jonathan Shaw: Plastic bags are used across the DEFRA estate to remove all manner of waste. Clear plastic bags are used for security purposes. DEFRA is working currently with its supply chain to trial recycled bags for the same purpose and durability.

Currently, bags and contents are collected and processed for recycling or entry to the waste to energy route. Plastics are hand picked from the waste content.

DEFRA's marketing department has not produced plastic carrier bags for a number of years. We do produce biodegradable bags, and sturdy reusable fabric bags, for example for our Act on CO_2 campaign.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2123W, on departmental marketing, what the size is of each of the six displays located in the main buildings of his Department. [184882]

Jonathan Shaw: We have vacated one of our London offices so now only have five displays located in our main buildings. The ministerial displays are designed to be of an appropriate size for their location and enable us to display other information about the work of the Department. The sizes of the ministerial displays are:

1. 500x1095mm
2. 500 x 995mm
3. 500 x 1275mm
4. 300 x 700mm
5. 600 x 1200mm

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174423]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) can confirm that his Department recycled the following amounts of waste in each of the last four years.

	2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
	Waste (Tonnes)	*Percentage of total waste*	*Waste (Tonnes)*	*Percentage of total waste*	*Waste (Tonnes)*	*Percentage of total waste*	*Waste (Tonnes)*	*Percentage of total waste*
White Paper	215.8	4.2	153.7	3.6	216.0	4.6	153.4	7.0
All paper	753.7	14.6	515.1	12.0	529.7	11.3	594.2	27.0
Cardboard	220.4	4.3	120.2	2.8	121.4	2.6	107.6	4.9
Cans	44.3	0.9	12.8	0.3	11.0	0.2	3.5	0.2
Glass	4.7	0.1	11.6	0.3	11.0	0.2	19.7	0.9
Fluorescent Tubes	2.4	0.0	3.6	0.1	1.9	0.0	3.7	0.2
Toner Cartridges	10.4	0.2	6.8	0.2	9.6	0.2	13.0	0.6
Electronic Equipment (not IT)	1.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	—	—	—	—
IT Equipment	—	—	3.5	0.1	299.9	6.4	94.7	4.3
Plastic	9.6	0.2	7.9	0.2	8.6	0.2	4.7	0.2
Furniture	27.3	0.5	13.9	0.3	—	—	—	—
Batteries	3.8	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0
Other	50.3	1.0	28.5	0.7	2.3	0.0	19.8	0.9
Organic Waste (compost)	37.6	0.7	0.4	0.0	—	—	—	—
Re-Used	6.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—
Incinerated (for energy use)	1,040.8	20.2	1,262.2	29.5	1,348.2	28.8	—	
Total Recovered Waste	2,429	47.1	2,210	51.6	2,560	54.7	1,021	46.4
Total Office Waste	5,155	—	4,283	—	4,668	—	2,228	

Disease Control: Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on eradicating bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* cattle and *(b)* wildlife. [183791]

Jonathan Shaw: Our ultimate aim continues to be the eradication of bovine TB. However, due to the current level of the disease, our first priority is to focus on using the approaches outlined in the "Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis in Great Britain" to control the disease and prevent further spread. Once we have the disease under control, the next stage is to consider eradication.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the change in the number of cattle which will be slaughtered as reactors to bovine tuberculosis tests using gamma interferon compared with numbers arising from skin tests alone; and what estimate he has made of the costs of compensation arising from any such change. [183937]

Jonathan Shaw: In the 12 months following the introduction of the current gamma interferon (gIFN) testing policy (23 October 2006 to 31 October 2007), 2,327 reactors were identified in Great Britain from a total of 31,047 cattle receiving this blood test (7.5 gIFN test reactors per 100 cattle tested). In the same period, some 24,500 cattle were identified as reactors to a total of approximately 5.3 million skin tests. However, the proportions of animals reacting to each type of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) test are not directly comparable, as the two tests are used for different reasons and applied to cattle populations of different bTB risk and prevalence.

The proportion of cattle reacting to the gIFN test is in line with that observed with this test, in GB, prior to the rollout of the current policy. The observed rise in the total number of gIFN test reactors slaughtered has been substantial, but not unexpected, given the significant increase in numbers of animals receiving this test compared to previous years. This is a not unexpected consequence of a bTB testing policy that is intended to improve and speed up the detection and removal of infected cattle in infected (or at-risk) herds, by supplementing the primary skin test with the more sensitive ancillary blood test.

Cattle removed as reactors to the gIFN test attract the same level of compensation as skin test reactors.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of expenditure on measures to counter bovine tuberculosis in the period of the 2008-11 Comprehensive Spending Review, broken down by activity. [183457]

Jonathan Shaw: GB expenditure on bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in 2007-08 was £79.8 million[1]. However, we are unable to provide an accurate forecast of expenditure on bTB in the period of the 2008-11 comprehensive spending review as budgets have not yet been finalised.

[1] Includes expenditure on cattle testing, compensation, research, the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, surveillance activity by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and HQ overheads.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered as tuberculosis reactors *(a)* solely as a result of the gamma interferon test, *(b)* solely as a result of the tuberculin skin test and *(c)* as a result of a tuberculin skin test and the gamma interferon test in each of the last 24 months; and how many of these in each case tested negative for bovine tuberculosis at post mortem examination. [183458]

Jonathan Shaw: The table presents the number of cattle slaughtered as reactors to the tuberculin skin test or gamma interferon (gIFN) test since use of the gIFN test was rolled out in certain herds in late October 2006.

It is not possible to produce an accurate figure for reactors to both tests because cattle are only officially recorded as reactors to either the skin or gIFN test, not both. Cattle reacting to both the skin and gIFN test are recorded on Animal Health IT systems as skin test reactors alone, this being the primary test for tuberculosis that, for example, determines the relevant date for ascertainment of the compensation payable to the owner.

The difference in the number of reactors to each test should not be viewed as a reflection of any discrepancies between results to the two tests. Rather, this is due to the fact that the two tests are used for different purposes and only a relatively small proportion of all the cattle undergoing skin testing will have also received the ancillary gIFN test.

The table also includes the number of skin test reactors in which evidence of TB was also found after post-mortem examination and culture. Failure to detect lesions of tuberculosis by post-mortem examination at the slaughterhouse, or to culture *Mycobacterium bovis* in the laboratory, does not imply that a test reactor was not infected with bovine TB. Indeed, in the early stages of this disease it is not always possible to observe lesions during abattoir post-mortem examination, and, due to the fastidious nature of this organism, it is very difficult to isolate it from tissue samples without visible lesions. Meaningful "confirmation" rates for gamma interferon reactors cannot be provided, as a significant proportion of gIFN positive animals are not subject to laboratory culture, as infection has already been identified in the herd. On average, post-mortem evidence of TB is typically found in 35 to 45 per cent. of skin test reactors and 15 to 20 per cent. of gIFN test reactors.

	Number of cattle slaughtered as reactors to:		
		Tuberculin skin test	
Month	*gIFN test*[1]	*Total*[2]	*With post-mortem of cultural evidence of infection*[3]
October/November 2006[4]	127	2,683	1,089
December 2006	74	1,610	626
January 2007	198	2,494	898
February 2007	157	1,971	666
March 2007	135	2,145	737
April 2007	39	2,064	743
May 2007	121	1,611	577
June 2007	96	1,441	426
July 2007	355	1,791	654
August 2007	121	1,192	400
September 2007	53	1,507	572

	Number of cattle slaughtered as reactors to:		
		Tuberculin skin test	
Month	*gIFN test*[1]	*Total*[2]	*With post-mortem of cultural evidence of infection*[3]
October 2007	100	2,614	1,021
November 2007	372	2,582	1,174

[1] Includes animals tested under gIFN parallel testing conditions which were not classified as tuberculin skin test reactors—this excludes rapid IR x2 gIFN tests as reactors under this scenario will not be slaughtered solely as a result of the gIFN test result.

[2] Tuberculin skin test reactors.

[3] Tuberculin skin test reactors where TB was confirmed at post-mortem testing slaughterhouse examination and/or laboratory culture testing.

[4] Includes data for 23 October—30 November 2006.

All figures are provisional, and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reliability of the *(a)* gamma interferon test and *(b)* tuberculin skin test for detecting bovine tuberculosis. [183459]

Jonathan Shaw: Evidence, from research and use in the field, shows that the tuberculin skin test and the gamma interferon test are effective at disclosing infected animals.

However, no diagnostic test for bovine tuberculosis (TB) is 100 per cent. accurate, as defined by the tests' diagnostic sensitivity (the probability of correctly identifying infected cattle as test positives) and specificity (the probability of correctly classifying non-infected cattle as test negative).

The comparative skin test, which we are required to use as the primary TB screening test by EU legislation, has a specificity of 99.9 per cent. and a sensitivity of 77 to 95 per cent. (approx 80 per cent.). The gamma interferon test, which is also approved under EU legislation for use as an ancillary test alongside the skin test, has a specificity of 96 to 97 per cent. and a sensitivity of 71 to 94 per cent. (approx. 88.3 per cent.). These performance characteristics are based on a review of a range of published papers from around the world and by assessing test performance under GB conditions.

Importantly, the TB skin and gamma interferon tests identify different sub-sets of TB-infected cattle. So, when the two tests are used together in herds with confirmed TB infection in such a way that animals positive to either test are declared reactors and removed from the herd, they can considerably increase the overall sensitivity of the TB testing regime.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the efficacy of polymerase chain technology for testing *(a)* live and *(b)* dead cattle for bovine TB either alone or as a supporting test to the skin test. [183964]

Jonathan Shaw: We recognise that Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) has potential for speeding up the process of identifying the presence of *Mycobacterium bovis* in animal tissues and the environment. DEFRA has been funding work using the PCR technique to develop tests for *M. bovis* since 1999.

A method for the detection of *M. bovis* by PCR direct from bovine tissues (from dead animals) in the laboratory is currently being evaluated. PCR is not as sensitive as culture, but can provide a more rapid confirmation of the disease in animals revealing suspicious lesions at slaughter.

Work on using PCR for detection of *M. bovis* in clinical samples from live animals has shown it is not suitable for this use. The gamma interferon blood test is used as a supporting test for the diagnosis of TB in cattle.

Energy: Computer Hardware

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the market transformation programme has made of the energy demands of computer data centres in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* future years; and if he will make a statement. [185386]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's market transformation programme's (MTP) work to estimate the energy consumption by IT servers and data centres is still underway.

However from the very limited information that is currently available MTP estimates that for 2007 UK IT servers and data centres UK consumed approximately 3.7TWh and 9.5TWh respectively.

The MTP's initial broad estimates are that the energy consumption from these products could increase to 7.2Twh and 21.3TWh respectively by 2020.

MTP work in this area will be finalised in spring 2008 and will consolidate the above estimates of energy consumption as well as indicate what potential exists to restrict the growth in energy consumption in these areas.

Energy: Conservation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount spent in England on domestic energy saving products of each type in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [184236]

Mr. Woolas: My Department grant funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST) year-on-year, supporting the valuable work which it undertakes to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy. The ESTs energy saving recommended label is a voluntary label which is awarded to the best energy saving products including insulation, heating controls, glazing, light bulbs, boilers and domestic appliances.

The EST estimates the following has been spent on energy saving products in the last three years.

Total expenditure[1]

	2004-05	*2005-6*	£ *2006-7*
Refrigerators			
A++	84,625.60	161,386.55	538,082.10
A+	10,016.814	15,185,957	10,697,634
A	92,531,854	113,121,329	115,357,441
Fridge Freezers			
A++	—	—	7,798
A+	1,826,870	7,467,013	21,628,049
A	295,188,116	278,864,911	307,284,428
Upright freezers			
A++	8,646	—	—
A+	2,339,249	2,923,543	6,306,204
A	45,817.989	30,372,612	62,806,106
Chest freezers			
A++	—	—	101,233
A+	764,254	976,899	2,954,138
A	7,137,854	4,710,793	3,497,070
Washer dryers			
A++	7,098,899	—	11,916,333
A+	50,225,650	53,299,505	63,881,510
A	23,118,879	18,826,602	18,337,667
Washing machines			
A++	775,796,507	—	1,188,360,371
A+	99,357,453	36,519,530	14,905,009
A	7,101,014	4,438,724	709,394
Dishwashers			
A	173,160,225	176,897,538	181,827,107
B	38,732,690	25,430,362	17,890,045
C	13,506,545	3,116,433	1,765,459
Tumble dryers			
A	—	—	1,620,127
B	—	—	5,230,995
C	—	—	155,774,725
Total White Goods	1,643,814,132.99	772,363,679.77	2,193,892,371.86

[1] Pro rated for England only

Flat Panel[1] *IDTV's s*

	2004-05	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Sales	—	—	722,599
Sum cost	—	—	225,289.39

[1] EST have only included IDTVs in the ESR scheme in 2006 *Source:* HHIC

Sales only

	2004-05	*2005-6*	£ *2006-7*
Boiler Sales			
A	406,437	963,341	1,104,174
B	57,537	261,731	303,857

	2004-05	*2005-6*	£ *2006-7*
Draught Excluders	36,236	983,125	924,243
Insulation Jackets	11 ,464	63,580	52,659
Loft Insulation	332,388	1,874,128	1,179,836
Pipe Lagging	284,079	1,706,905	1,637,445
Cavity wall Insulation	40,504	115,198	93,265

	2004-05	*2005-6*	£ *2006-7*
Compact fluorescent light bulbs	15,600,000	43,000,000	n/a

n/a = Not available

[1] Pro Rated for England only

Source:

Gfk

Energy: Environment Protection

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has carried out into the environmental effects of the new consumer energy display units and the integration of such units into current energy suppliers' infrastructure. [184774]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA commissioned a review on "the Effectiveness of Feedback on Energy Consumption" which is published on the DEFRA website. This established that direct feedback from a display unit can result in energy savings of approximately 5 to 15 per cent. This was greater than indirect feedback from more frequent, accurate bills, associated with smart meters, which was around 0 to 10 per cent.

The review also found that consumers using display units are less likely to leave appliances on stand-by, whereas indirect feedback from information on bills allows consumers to understand changes from improved insulation.

The integration of display units into energy suppliers' infrastructure is a commercial matter for the energy companies.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been allocated for flood prevention schemes for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; [184872]

(2) by what procedures local authorities can gain access to central government funds to undertake flood prevention work; [184873]

(3) what statutory obligations require local authorities to undertake *(a)* flood prevention and *(b)* flood remediation works; [184874]

(4) what statutory obligations require *(a)* water and *(b)* drainage services to undertake flood prevention work; [184875]

(5) what statutory obligations require local authorities and utility services to cooperate on flooding issues; [184876]

(6) by what procedures residents' associations and other non-governmental local bodies can access *(a)* central and *(b)* local government funds for (i) flood prevention and (ii) flood remediation schemes. [184877]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities have permissive powers (but no statutory obligation) to undertake works to manage flood risk from the sea and from watercourses for which the Environment Agency and internal drainage boards do not hold such powers.

Under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 water and sewerage companies are responsible for the effectual drainage of foul and surface water arising from the drains of premises connected to the public sewerage system. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, during flood events, Category 2 responders—which includes utilities—have a general duty to co-operate and share information with Category 1 responders, which includes local authorities as well as emergency services and the Environment Agency.

£439 million has been allocated to the Environment Agency for flood risk management in 2007-08 and £21 million to local authorities and internal drainage boards for capital improvement projects to reduce flood risk. Further funding is provided through the local government funding mechanism operated by Communities and Local Government to support local authorities' non-capital flood risk management activities and from DEFRA to local authorities for capital projects to reduce risk of coastal erosion which often also provide significant flood risk benefits.

The statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 50WS, details funding allocations for flood and coastal erosion risk management in future years. Specific allocations within the totals in the statement have not yet been made.

DEFRA capital funding to local authorities for flood risk and coast protection projects is administered by the Environment Agency which is currently considering allocations based on returns submitted by the authorities last summer. As part of this process all local authorities were invited to submit returns indicating the cost and outcome of potential projects.

DEFRA funding is not available directly to other organisations although we are currently undertaking a pilot project investigating the feasibility of a grant scheme to assist householders to install flood resilience measures in their homes. Local authorities have some flexibility to provide discretionary assistance for repairs and adaptations.

Food: Origin Marking

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the level of public support for country of origin food labelling. [184612]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 5 February 2008]*: DEFRA will continue to liaise closely with the Food Standards Agency on the proposals emerging from the European Union's review of food labelling, which include origin labelling.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the installation of central heating in the property of Mrs. Betty Mays, of West Stockwith under the Warm Front scheme has been delayed. [184965]

Mr. Woolas: Mrs. Mays contacted Warm Front on 19 November 2007 to request assistance following the failure of her heating system. A replacement boiler installation was completed on 29 January 2008.

This work was within the 120 working day target time scale for the Warm Front scheme.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Grants

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* households and *(b)* rural households in England received Warm Front grants in each year since the introduction of the Warm Front scheme; and what the average value of a Warm Front grant to (i) mains gas-connected households and (ii) a household off the gas network in England was in each year. [184905]

Mr. Woolas: The number of assisted households up to December 2007 is set out in the following table. The figures for rural households prior to 2005 do not include households from the eastern region of England, as this data are unavailable.

	Assisted households	*Rural households*
2000-01	60,110	5,181
2001-02	151,704	13,309
2002-03	169,399	14,927
2003-04	141,195	13,523
2004-05	148,492	15,445
2005-06	114,595	16,766
2006-07	253,079	37,496
2007-08	203,089	29,607
Total	1,241,662	146,255

The following table summarises the average value of a Warm Front grant to (i) mains gas-connected households and (ii) households off the gas network in England.

£

	Average grant (off gas)	*Average grant (mains gas-connected)*
2000-01	722.28	839.95
2001-02	912.83	1,039.56
2002-03	775.27	672.71
2003-04	455.47	677.09
2004-05	797.36	685.56
2005-06	1,820.99	1,236.73
2006-07	1,418.04	805.86
2007-08	1,880.67	1,204.38
Total	1,439.73	870.98

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what files are held by his Department on *(a)* the Horses, Ponies and Donkeys Bill of Session 1987-88, *(b)* the Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (No. 2) Bill of Session 1987-88 and *(c)* the Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [180776]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has one file covering all three pieces of legislation.

Horses: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will raise in the EU Council of Ministers the distance which live horses are being transported across Europe to slaughter. [180455]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* It has long been Government policy that we prefer the export of meat rather than live animal exports for slaughter. New animal welfare measures came into effect in January 2007 with the implementation of EC Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transportation. The provisions include important horse welfare measures that the UK put forward and which were supported by horse welfare organisations.

We were disappointed that the new regulation did not include the provision for shorter journey times to final destination that we were seeking, but member states were unable to reach agreement on this. However, it now seems likely that the regulation's review will be brought forward to 2009 instead of 2011 as originally intended. During this review, we will be looking for reduced journey times for horses and other animals. Consequently, it would be premature to raise the issue with other European Ministers at this stage.

Housing: Rural Areas

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will make a decision on the proposed Rural Housing Challenge Fund; what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to make the decision on rural housing enablers and the delivery of his Department's policies on affordable rural housing; and if he will make a statement. [184842]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of its preparations for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) during the summer of 2007, DEFRA asked the Housing Corporation to provide advice on the feasibility of a potential funding programme to improve the delivery of affordable rural housing at local level. That advice will be carefully considered in decisions about departmental spending priorities over the CSR period. No decisions about the fund have yet been made. We are currently finalising the Department's overall funding package and an announcement will be made shortly.

Rural Housing Enablers are among the wide variety of projects funded through the two-year Rural Social and Community Programme, which will close, as planned, in March this year. Programme guidance, published in 2005, noted that all projects should draw up an 'exit strategy' to identify how they would develop beyond the time-limited period of the programme.

The clear vision for the long-term future of Rural Housing Enablers has always been that they should be supported at local level by the very local authorities and Housing Associations whose rural delivery they exist to support. This is happening in many areas. However, these funding decisions are at the discretion of local delivery agents.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1935W, on influenza, what elements of the food industry sector's business continuity plans were tested in the cross-Government pandemic influenza exercise; whether any lessons were learned as a result of the exercise; and if he will make a statement. [184464]

Jonathan Shaw: A range of food sector manufacturers, retailers, primary producers and wholesalers tested their business continuity plans in the cross-Government pandemic influenza exercise. The Government have published a lessons learned document, available on the UK Resilience website, after discussions were held with the sector.

National Fallen Stock Collection and Disposal Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the ban on on-farm burial. [184869]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to review the ban on on-farm burial.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms his Department has in place to monitor the effectiveness of the ban on on-farm burial in reducing the incidence of disease amongst livestock. [184870]

Jonathan Shaw: None. The ban on burying on-farm fallen stock was introduced by the EU Animal By-Products Regulation 1774/2002. It is there to protect public and animal health from any potential risks associated with the burial of fallen stock.

The regulation was made on a precautionary basis influenced by the evidence provided in a number of scientific opinions from the EU's scientific steering committee (SSC).

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the cost to the livestock industry of removal of fallen stock and the effects of those costs on competitiveness. [184967]

Jonathan Shaw: No such assessment has been made. However, the independent review of the national fallen stock scheme carried out in 2006 did an analysis of such costs and the impact on producers of the costs of fallen stock disposal. The report is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of livestock producers were members of the National Fallen Stock Scheme in each of the last three years. [184862]

Jonathan Shaw: The national fallen stock scheme has had around 40,000 members for the past three years. The independent review of the scheme, carried out in 2006, estimated this constituted between 55 per cent. and 61 per cent. of the potential total membership in the UK.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the independent review of the National Fallen Stock Scheme and Company. [184868]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government response to the independent review was published in February 2007 and a copy of that response is available on the DEFRA website. It noted that the Government was in the process of considering the National Fallen Stock Company business plan and wished to discuss it further with the company, with the aim of agreeing a joint way forward which could be put to the livestock industry.

Since then, the Government have endorsed the company's business plan and is providing assistance in taking it forward. The Government remains in discussion with the company about its future operations and ownership. Once these discussions have concluded and the outcome has been put to the livestock industry, a further response will be published.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the National Fallen Stock Scheme. [184871]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are satisfied with the effectiveness of the arrangements for collecting and disposing of animals under the national fallen stock scheme.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the National Fallen Stock Scheme on the level of stock collection prices. [184952]

Jonathan Shaw: No such assessment has been made. However, changes in fallen stock collection prices were analysed as part of the independent review of the national fallen stock scheme carried out in 2006. The report is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average stock collection price was for *(a)* each type of animal and *(b)* in each region in each of the last three years. [184953]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government do not collect such data. However, some information on collection prices by species and region is available in the report of the independent review of the national fallen stock scheme carried out in 2006. The report is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department proposes to make available for the National Fallen Stock Scheme in each of the next three years; what allocations were originally made to the scheme for those years; and whether such funding is to continue after 2011. [184968]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no current plans to make funding available beyond the previously agreed period ending November 2008.

Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what purpose his Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179320]

Jonathan Shaw: Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code, and section 4.4 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Members of the public who apply for public appointments within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Public Appointments are asked to complete a declaration on political activity.

Poultry

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many chickens were reared for meat in England in the last five years; and what percentage of those were reared free range in each year. [183820]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of chickens and hens slaughtered in England and Wales in the last five years.

Slaughtering of chickens and hens in England and Wales

Million birds

	Broilers (chickens)	*Boilers (culled hens)*	*Total*
2003	657.5	33.6	691.1
2004	647.9	32.3	680.1
2005	666.4	34.0	700.4
2006	654.9	32.3	687.2
2007	646.2	33.0	679.2

Notes:

1. The figures from the Great Britain Poultry Register are from an extract of data taken on 30 January 2008. The figures represent the number of chickens usually present at a premises, and as such they should be taken as approximate.

2. It is mandatory for all premises with 50 or more poultry to register on Great Britain Poultry Register. Registration for smaller premises is voluntary so these premises are under-represented here.

Source:

DEFRA

According to the Great Britain Poultry Register there were 101.3 million chickens registered as being reared for meat production on premises in England as at 30 January 2008. Of these chickens, 3.5 million (3.4 per cent.) were registered as free range. Estimates of the proportion which are free range are not available for earlier years.

It should be noted that as free range birds are on farms for longer than other broilers, the proportion of production which is free range will lower than the proportion of population on farm. However, this will be offset by the fact that the Great Britain Poultry Register is only voluntary for flocks of less than 50 birds, a higher proportion of which would be free range.

Warm Front Scheme: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have received grants from the WarmFront scheme in each London borough since its introduction. [184172]

Mr. Woolas: Since the introduction of Warm Front in 2000, the number of households receiving a grant in each London borough is as follows:

	Households
Barking and Dagenham	4,646
Barnet	3,010
Bexley	3,750
Brent	3,176
Bromley	3,453
Camden	596
City of London	3
Croydon	4,462
Ealing	4,372
Enfield	4,269
Greenwich	3,904
Hackney	3,509
Hammersmith and Fulham	978
Haringey	4,842
Harrow	2,659
Havering	5,122
Hillingdon	2,889
Hounslow	2,312
Islington	1,117
Kensington and Chelsea	357
Kingston upon Thames	756
Lambeth	2,749
Lewisham	3,941
Merton	2,852
Newham	8,719
Redbridge	5,541
Richmond upon Thames	947
Southwark	1,771
Sutton	2,011
Tower Hamlets	2,015
Waltham Forest	6,661
Wandsworth	1,543
Westminster	798
Total grants	99,730

Wind Power: Licensing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are planned to enable marine stakeholders to be consulted in licensing decisions for offshore wind farms generating over 100MW of power. [178588]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Offshore windfarms are currently required to have a number of licenses and consents in place, for example under the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985, Coast Protection Act (CPA) 1949 and under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Thorough consultation arrangements are in place for each, including with marine stakeholders. In addition, as part of the process for selecting offshore sites, in December 2007 the Government launched the scoping work for a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the next offshore licensing round. The SEA process will include consultation with marine stakeholders.

Under the Planning Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, the Independent Planning Commission would take over responsibility for decisions on applications for orders granting development consent on nationally significant infrastructure projects, within the framework set by national policy statements. These will include offshore windfarms over 100MW.

The Bill includes provisions which will ensure that stakeholders are involved in the decisions at each stage. There will be public consultation on national policy statements before they are designated; a legal duty on promoters to publicise their proposed application and to consult prescribed parties about it; and any party that registers an interest by the appropriate deadline will have a right to be heard by the IPC when it considers the application.

Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average level of domestic carbon emissions produced by *(a)* all houses, *(b)* an average-sized house built to minimum building regulation standards, *(c)* an average-sized house built to Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes and *(d)* an average-sized house built to Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes was in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [184235]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The standards for the energy performance of homes in the Code for Sustainable Homes are specified in terms of emissions. The relevant emissions rates are expressed as improvements against the standards set in the Building Regulations Approved Document L (2006) and measured using the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).

In 2005, the latest year for which figures are available, carbon dioxide emissions from the household sector were 148.5 million tonnes. The target emission rate for an average home meeting the standards in Part L of the Building Regulations 2006 is 0.553 tonnes of carbon per annum. For an average home (broadly defined as a semi-detached house with a gas-fired central heating boiler and a floor area of 88.8 metres squared) this equates to approximately 8300 kWh of gas and 983 kWh of electricity.

To meet Code level 3, a house will have to be designed and built to achieve a 25 per cent. improvement on this rate. To meet Code Level 4, a house will have to be designed and built to achieve a 44 per cent. improvement on the 2006 Part L target emission rate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those required to make payments by the Child Support Agency did not fulfil their obligations in the latest period for which figures are available. [183912]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 February 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of those required to make payments by the Child Support Agency did not fulfil their obligations in the latest period for which figures are available.

The proportion of those required to make payments by the Child Support Agency that did fulfil their obligations (and hence by derivation those that did not) is available in table 7.2 of the December 2007 Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

This can be found in the House of Commons Library or at the following website http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/dec2007/csa_dec07_tables.xls.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many active Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than three months. [183914]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 February 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many active Child Support Agency cases have been outstanding for more than three months.

The Agency currently has 121,000 uncleared applications over three months old. Under the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan the number of uncleared applications has been halved since March 2006, and is now at its lowest point since October 2003. Additional information on uncleared cases can be found in tables 2.1 and 5 of the December 2007 CSA Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), available in the House of Commons Library or online at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168092]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not currently available and to obtain it would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181371]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has issued 731 personal digital assistants. 103 were issued in 2005 with 31 issued to female staff and 72 issued to male staff. 628 were issued in 2007 with 275 issued to female staff and 353 issued to male staff.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many political appointments were made by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183218]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the Library of the House.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of raising the age limit for claiming disability living allowance in line with the increase in state pension age. [181807]

Mrs. McGuire: It is estimated that, based on 2007-08 prices, the cost of raising the age limit for claiming disability living allowance in line with the increase in state pension age will rise to about £0.6 billion a year by 2050-51.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of disabled children eligible to claim the *(a)* lower, *(b)* medium and *(c)* higher rate of the (i) care and (ii) mobility component of the disability living allowance who are (A) under 16 and (B) under 18 years old in full-time education; [183532]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children and young people up to the age of 18 years old eligible to claim disability-related benefits in the UK, broken down by age. [183534]

Mrs. McGuire: No such estimates are available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled children under *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 18 years old in full-time education claimed the (i) lower, (ii) medium and (iii) higher rate of the (A) care and (B) mobility component of the disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [183533]

Mrs. McGuire: All children aged between five and 15 (inclusive) are required to be in full-time education. Information about the number of these children who are in receipt of disability living allowance is in the table.

It is not possible to estimate with confidence the number of disabled children who are aged 16 and 17 in full-time education and in receipt of disability living allowance.

Children aged five to 15 claiming disability living allowance by award type—May 2007

	Care component			Mobility component	
Age	*Highest*	*Middle*	*Lowest*	*Higher*	*Lower*
5 to 15	92,800	140,890	15,900	54,870	137,200

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Caseload totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Employment Schemes: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of participation in the employment retention and advancement pilot by Leyton and Wanstead residents; how many residents have participated; what they have received in *(a)* monetary and *(b)* non-monetary terms; and how long that pilot has been in operation. [178799]

Mrs. McGuire: The Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) demonstration was launched in six Jobcentre Plus districts, including North East London, from October 2003 and final participants completed their time on ERA in November 2007.

ERA was designed to test the effectiveness of a package of post-employment support and financial incentives in helping customers sustain and progress in employment. It was offered to lone parents on New Deal for Lone Parents, lone parents who were already working part-time and receiving working tax credit, and eligible long-term unemployed adults on New Deal 25 plus.

Around 16,000 people were randomly assigned to either the ERA programme or to a control group across the six districts. Just under 1,500 people in north east London district, which comprises the local authorities of Barking and Dagenham; Havering; Red bridge, and Waltham Forest, received the ERA service. The requested information is not available broken down at constituency level.

ERA participants were eligible to receive the service for 33 months, and received the following support once in employment:

(1) in-work advisory support from Jobcentre Plus,

(2) an employment retention bonus of £400, available up to six times, for staying in full-time work for 13 out of every 17 weeks;

(3) access to emergency payments to overcome short-term barriers to staying in work;

(4) training tuition assistance up to the value of £1,000, and

(5) a training bonus for completing training while employed, which was also up to the value of £1,000.

A report on year-one ERA findings 'Implementation and First-Year Impacts of the UK Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Demonstration', DWP Research Report No 412, was published in February 2007, and is being placed in the Library. A report on outcomes two years after random assignment is due to be published in April 2008. The full evaluation of ERA will not be available until 2010.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* died and *(b)* reached state retirement age while in receipt of incapacity benefit in each of the last three years. [181645]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table.

Number of those leaving incapacity benefits through retirement or death[1] (year to February)

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Retirement	63,400	58,700	63,300
Death	28,000	27,300	27,900

Notes:

1. [1]some destinations for those leaving incapacity benefits are not known, so these figures may undercount the true number leaving through retirement or death.
2. Incapacity benefits include incapacity benefit, income support for incapacity and severe disablement allowance.

Source:

DWP 5 per cent. administrative, terminations data, May 2007

Industrial Health and Safety: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the obligations on employers under *(a)* the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and *(b)* other health and safety legislation to prepare for a potential influenza pandemic. [174747]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W.

Industrial Health and Safety: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he gives to operators of sports stadiums on the volume of recorded music and public announcements; and if he will make a statement. [180370]

Mrs. McGuire: The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 require employers to reduce risks arising from noise at work to as low a level as is reasonably practicable. HSE guidance booklet 'Controlling Noise at Work' (ISBN 0717661644) provides advice on these regulations and their application. Further advice is provided in 'The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds' published by the Department for Culture Media and Sport. This provides general advice on safety at sports grounds including the operation of public address systems.

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* enforcement notices have been served and *(b)* prosecutions have been initiated by health and safety inspectors under health and safety at work legislation in each year since 2002-03, broken down by region. [181130]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: The information is as follows:

(a) The full regional breakdown of notices initiated by health and safety inspectors is not available below the country level of England, Scotland or Wales, as local authority (LA) figures are available only at this level.

LAs issued the following number of notices between 2002-03 to 2006-07.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Great Britain	5,780	6,080	6,420	6,770	6,960

These LA figures are from non-statutory annual returns to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Estimates are made for notices issued where an LA does not make a return and these are included in the aforementioned figures.

However the total number of enforcement notices issued by HSE inspectors, since 2002-03, by Government office region are available, and are as follows:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East of England	1,042	1,098	913	613	n/a
East Midlands	1,044	832	710	644	n/a
London	943	920	538	547	n/a
North East	532	494	388	297	n/a
North West	1,648	1,425	1,039	907	n/a
South East	1,379	1,149	774	626	n/a
South West	894	747	649	446	n/a
West Midlands	1,514	1,261	901	660	n/a
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,174	954	783	716	n/a
Scotland	1,378	1,263	992	786	n/a
Wales	1,245	738	458	319	n/a
Not Allocated (n/a)	531	454	326	32	—
Great Britain	13,324	11,335	8,471	6,593	8,099

Note:
The 2006-07 value is the provisional published figure and the regional breakdown will be available in autumn 2008.

The aforementioned table includes enforcement notices issued by health and safety inspectors against the rail industry. Notices up to and including 2005-06 were issued by HSE inspectors. However from 1 April 2006, responsibility for health and safety enforcement in the rail industry passed to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). As a result, the 2006-07 figure includes Notices issued by ORR inspectors.

The combined totals of enforcement notices issued by HSE, LA and most recently ORR health and safety inspectors are as follows:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Great Britain	19,104	17,415	14,891	13,363	15,059

(b) The total number of prosecutions initiated (i.e. individual charges laid) by health and safety inspectors, since 2002-03, by Government office region are as follows:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East of England	180	228	248	253	170
East Midlands	171	167	110	110	117
London	167	137	135	103	153
North East	76	81	64	27	65
North West	249	216	135	138	186
South East	135	200	139	95	172
South West	138	126	109	61	114
West Midlands	291	259	220	153	166
Yorkshire and the Humber	129	210	127	153	156
Scotland	212	310	182	130	101
Wales	140	94	104	51	72
Not Allocated (n/a)	101	102	79	39	9
Great Britain	1,989	2,130	1,652	1,313	1,481

The aforementioned figures include both Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authority (LA) initiated prosecutions. Prosecutions initiated against the rail industry are included in the HSE component of these figures.

The prosecution figures are for Great Britain only. The 2006-07 values include provisional published figures for the HSE. Finalised figures for the HSE will be available in autumn 2008.

These prosecution figures relate to the year when the offence was last heard in the courts.

Local Employment Partnerships: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the target is for the number of local employers to be involved in the local employment partnership in the *(a)* Banbury and *(b)* Oxford travel-to-work area; [177885]

(2) what the target is for the number of unemployed people to be found jobs in the *(a)* Banbury and *(b)* Oxford travel-to-work area via local employment partnerships. [177886]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no target number for employers to recruit through local employment partnerships (LEPs) in individual Jobcentre Plus regions and districts.

Local employment partnerships are open to all employers willing to make the commitment to open up more job opportunities to people at a disadvantage in the labour market. Jobcentre Plus is now working to engage both major national companies and local employers who would like to work through LEPs.

Motability Vehicle Scheme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is taking steps to extend eligibility for the Motability vehicle scheme to those people in need of mobility assistance who are over 65 years. [183421]

Mrs. McGuire: The Motability scheme is open to anyone who has qualified for the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and has an award length of sufficient duration. These awards can continue in payment beyond the age of 65 and in such circumstances a person would continue to have access to the Motability scheme.

There are no plans to change eligibility to the Motability scheme.

National Insurance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of national insurance contributions was for *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees in each of the last 30 years. [185381]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The rate of national insurance contributions for employers and employees in each of the last 30 years is shown as follows.

Rates of national insurance contributions

	Percentage	
	Employee	*Employer*
1977-78	5.75	10.75
1978-79 to 1 October 1978	6.5	12.0
1978-79 from 2 October 1978	6.5	13.5
1979-80	6.5	13.5
1980-81	6.75	13.7
1981-82	7.75	13.7
1982-83 to 1 August 1982	8.75	13.7
1982-83 from 2 August 1982	8.75	12.2
1983-84 to 31 July 1983	9	11.95
1983-84 from 1 August 1983	9	11.45
1984-85 to 30 September 1984	9	11.45
1984-85 from 1 October 1984	9	10.45
1985-86 to 5 October 1985	9	10.45

		Percentage	
	Weekly earnings	*Employee*	*Employer*
1985-86 from 6 October 1985	£35.50 to £54.99	5	5
	£55.00 to £89.99	7	7
	£90.00 to £129.99	9	9
	£130.00 to £265.00	9	[1]10.45
1986-87	£38.00 to £59.99	5	5
	£60.00 to £94.99	7	7
	£95.00 to £139.99	9	9
	£140.00 to £285.00	9	[1]10.45
1987-88	£39.00 to £64.99	5	5
	£65.00 to £99.99	7	7
	£100.00 to £149.00	9	9
	£150.00 to £295.00	9	[1]10.45
1988-89	£41.00 to £69.99	5	[illegible]
	£70.00 to £104.99	7	7
	£105.99 to £154.99	9	9
	£155.00 to £305.00	9	[1]10.45
1989-90 to 4 October 1989	£43.00 to £74.99	5	5
	£75.00 to £114.99	7	7
	£115.00 to £164.99	9	9
	£165.00 to £325.00	9	[1]10.45

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £43*	*Over £43*	*Employer*
1989-90 from 5 October 1989	£43.00 to £74.99	2	9	5
	£75.00 to £114.99	2	9	7
	£115.00 to £164.99	2	9	9
	£165.00 to £325.00	2	9	[1]10.45

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £46*	*Over £46*	*Employer*
1990-91	£46.00 to £79.99	2	9	5
	£80.00 to £124.99	2	9	7
	£125.00 to £174.99	2	9	9
	£175.00 to £350.00	2	9	[1]10.45

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £52*	*Over £52*	*Employer*
1991-92	£52.00 to £84.99	2	9	4.6
	£85.00 to £129.00	2	9	6.6
	£130.00 to £184.99	2	9	8.6
	£185.00 to £390.00	2	9	[1]10.4

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £54*	*Over £54*	*Employer*
1992-93	£54.00 to £89.00	2	9	4.6
	£90.00 to £134.99	2	9	6.6
	£135.00 to £189.99	2	9	8.6
	£190.00 £405.00	2	9	[1]10.4

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £56*	*Over £56*	*Employer*
1993-94	£56.00 to £94.99	2	9	4.6
	£95.00 to £139.99	2	9	6.6
	£140.00 to £194.99	2	9	8.6
	£195.00 to £420.00	2	9	[1]10.4

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £57*	*Over£57*	*Employer*
1994-95	£57.00 to £99.99	2	10	3.6
	£100.00 to £144.99	2	10	5.6
	£145.00 to £199.99	2	10	7.6
	£200.00 to £430.00	2	10	[1]10.2

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £58*	*Over £58*	*Employer*
1995-96	£58.00 to £104.99	2	10	3
	£105.00 to £149.99	2	10	5
	£150.00 to £204.99	2	10	7
	£205.00 to £440.00	2	10	[1]10.2

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £61*	*Over £61*	*Employer*
1996-97	£61.00 to £109.99	2	10	3
	£110.00 to £154.99	2	10	5
	£155.00 to £209.99	2	10	7
	£210.00 to £455.00	2	10	[1]10.2

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £62*	*Over £62*	*Employer*
1997-98	£62.00 to £109.99	2	10	3
	£110.00 to £154.99	2	10	5
	£155.00 to £209.99	2	10	7
	£210.00 to £465.00	2	10	[1]10

Percentage

		Employee		
	Weekly earnings	*First £62*	*Over £62*	*Employer*
1998-99	£64.00 to £109.99	2	10	3
	£110.00 to £154.99	2	10	5
	£155.00 to £209.99	2	10	7
	£210.00 to £485.00	2	10	[1]10

		Percentage
	Employee	Employer
1999-2000	10	[1]12.2
2000-01	10	[1]12.2
2001-02	10	[1]11.9
2002-03	10	[1]11.8

	Employee		Percentage
	Up to UEL	Over UEL	Employer
2003-04	11	[2]1	[1]12.8
2004-05	11	[2]1	[1]12.8
2005-06	11	[2]1	[1]12.8
2006-07	11	[2]1	[1]12.8
2007-08	11	[2]1	[1]12.8

[1] Employers pay NICs on all earnings above the Upper Earnings Limit (UEL)

[2] Employees pay NICs on all earnings above the UEL

Note:

Reduced rates apply on earnings paid to those in contracted-out employment (both employee and employer) and those women electing to pay reduce rate NIC (employee only).

Natural Gas: Safety

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to promote greater awareness among domestic landlords and their tenants of their duties and rights under gas safety regulations. [182672]

Mrs. McGuire: Landlords are responsible for ensuring that gas systems and appliances are safe for their tenants to use and checked annually for safety by installers registered with the Council for Registered Gas Installers (CORGI). The Health and Safety Executive promotes awareness of these matters through its website, through published alerts and through free leaflets for landlords and for the public, including tenants. CORGI also promotes gas safety messages for landlords and tenants in its public information.

New Deal Schemes: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people found work in Enfield North through the New Deal in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [182922]

Mrs. McGuire: The new deal programme started in January 1998. The available information is in the following table.

People into work through new deal in Enfield North

	Number
1998[1]	140
2006[1]	420
January to May 2007[2]	190

[1] Data are for the earliest and latest full calendar years.

[2] Latest information is only available for January to May 2007.

Notes:

1. Programme start dates are:
new deal for young people: January 1998;
new deal 25-plus: July 1998;
new deal for lone parents: October 1998;
new deal for partners: April 1999;
new deal 50-plus: April 2000;
new deal for disabled people: July 2001.
2. Data for 1998 only include information for new deal for young people, new deal 25-plus and new deal for lone parents.
3. New deal for young people operated as a pilot in 12 pathfinder locations only (not including Enfield North) from January to March 1998, and was rolled out nationally in April 1998.
4. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate.

Pension Credit

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in Milton Keynes received pension credit in each year since its inception. [178613]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of households receiving and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Milton Keynes local authority are shown in the following table.

	Household recipients	Individual beneficiaries
November 2003	4,900	5,900
May 2004	5,990	7,290
May 2005	6,500	7,960
May 2006	6,660	8,180
May 2007	6,850	8,370

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt and individual beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 is as at November.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate was of council tax benefit for pensioners in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [184654]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 15 January 2008, *Official Report,* column 1150W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Pensioners: Fuel Poverty

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that recent increases in energy prices do not increase levels of poverty among pensioners. [181212]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to tackling fuel poverty. Fuel prices do fluctuate and although fuel prices have risen since 2003 this follows a period of price stability between 1997 and 2003. Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 pensioners' incomes increased by 29 per cent. in real terms, compared with a 15 per cent. real terms increase in utility bills between 1996-97 and 2006.

Winter fuel payments provide a significant contribution to pensioners' heating bills. The winter fuel payment has risen from £20 in 1997-98 to £200 and £300 for oldest pensioners. Last year the winter fuel payment helped more than 11 million older people with their fuel bills, and assistance has been provided for two million low income households though schemes to improve energy efficiency, for example through better heating and insulation.

Incomes of the poorest pensioner households have risen by around 30 per cent. over the last 10 years. In addition we have successively raised the pension credit standard minimum guarantee in line with earnings every year since its introduction. In April 2008 the standard minimum guarantee will rise by 4.2 per cent. which is higher than the relevant average earnings index, ensuring that pension credit more than keeps pace with earnings and prices.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of pensioners living in poverty in the London Borough of Bexley. [182096]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. However there are approximately 200,000 pensioners living in London with below 60 per cent. of median income (after housing costs). This figure is the average over three survey years, 2003/04 to 2005/06, and is based on information from the Family Resources Survey.

Notes:

1. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of the sample sizes for individual regions.

2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

3. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.

4. The preferred measure of low income for pensioners is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income after housing costs. This is consistent with indicators that will be monitored as part of PSA delivery agreement 17.

5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Performance Appraisals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on performance appraisals, in what format information is available on departmental staff *(a)* performance against objectives and *(b)* appraisals; [181263]

(2) what information is collected by his Department on the performance of departmental staff *(a)* at appraisals and *(b)* against objectives. [181264]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not collated centrally on the performance of departmental staff against objectives.

Information is collated on employee's overall performance levels. Managers award one of four performance levels: 'Top', 'Higher', 'Majority' or 'Lower'. The information of the percentage of employees at each level is then collated across the Department.

Poverty: Young People

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to combat poverty among young people in otherwise wealthy rural areas. [181157]

Mrs. McGuire: There are greater variations of both unemployment and poverty within regions than there are between them, both in rural and urban regions.

The Government believe that employment is the best route out of poverty for families both now and in the future. By helping more parents into work now we will be able to break the cycle of generational benefit dependency and help prevent more young people from living a life on benefits in the future.

Since 1997, the proportion of children living in workless households has fallen from 18.7 per cent. to 16 per cent. in quarter two of 2007. This is a reduction of over 405,000 nationally.

We also believe that early engagement in learning and educational attainment is key to providing positive outcomes for young people and reducing the risk of them falling into poverty in later life, irrespective of where they live.

Progress is being made. 2006 saw the highest numbers ever continuing in full-time education when they completed year 11 across the country. In addition, since 1997 the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training has fallen from 17.8 per cent. to 17.1 per cent. nationally, with rural areas having a better figure than the national figure: 13.7 per cent. according to the latest figures available.

In order to assist young people stay in full-time education, especially in rural areas, local authorities have to make transport arrangements where they consider it 'necessary' to secure a child's attendance at school and in those circumstances it must be free of charge. In addition, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 extended entitlement to free school travel for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit.

To help those young people who are having difficulties getting into education, employment or training the Government have recently strengthened their strategy to help them do so. We plan to give early access to the new deal to 18-year-olds who claim jobseeker's allowance having already spent a period of time not working or studying, giving them direct support and advice on the best way to start on the road to a life of employment.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the minimum income guarantee is for young people aged 16 to 18 living independently; and if he will make a statement. [183142]

Mrs. McGuire: There is no minimum income guarantee for young people aged 16 to 18.

It is this Government's aim to encourage 16 and 17-year-old school leavers to make the most of their potential by entering further education, employment or taking up the Government's guarantee of a place on Work Based Learning for Young People rather than encouraging them to live independently.

Young people under the age of 18 do not have automatic entitlement to jobseeker's allowance unless they fall into what is known as a 'prescribed circumstance'. These circumstances are specified in the jobseeker's allowance regulations. Where a young person does not come within a prescribed circumstance, the regulations do allow for the discretionary award of jobseeker's allowance, but only where the young person can show that they would be in severe hardship were they not to receive benefit.

Income support is available for people who do not have to demonstrate their availability for work and training, for example, young people who are sick or disabled, are lone parents, or who are continuing in non-advanced full-time education while estranged from their parents.

Young people under 18 can qualify for other benefits, such as incapacity or disability benefits, in their own right where they meet the qualifying conditions.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings he has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179866]

Mrs. McGuire: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Workstep: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition he uses for sustained progression payment in relation to Workstep contractors. [178816]

Mrs. McGuire: The definition of a sustained progression payment on Workstep is that a Workstep employee must have worked for a minimum of 22 weeks in the 26-week period following their progression off the programme.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alcohol-related deaths there were in *(a)* the borough of Spelthorne and *(b)* the Administrative County of Surrey area in each of the last five years. [185175]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-related deaths there have been in (a) the borough of Spelthorne and (b) the Administrative County of Surrey are in each of the last five years. (185175)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause, for (a) Spelthorne local authority district, and (b) Surrey county, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Spelthorne local authority district and Surrey county[2,3], 2002 to 2006

	Deaths (persons)	
	Spelthorne	*Surrey*
2002	17	130
2003	9	80
2004	12	106
2005	11	117
2006	20	112

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Spelthorne local authority district is wholly contained within Surrey county.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

British Airports Authority

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings he and his predecessor attended with the British Airports Authority in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [184652]

(2) what meetings he and his predecessor attended with representatives of the aviation industry in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [184712]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Children: Death

Mr. Heath: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children aged between five and 15 years died in each coroner's district in each of the last five years. [184741]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children aged between five and 15 years died in each coroner's district in each of the last five years. (184741)

It is not possible to tabulate deaths by coroner's district from mortality data collected by ONS. However, the table below contains the number of deaths in children aged five to 15 by type of certifier in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006.

Number of deaths in children aged between five and 15, by type of certifier, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1]

	Death certified by:			
	Doctor	*Coroner*	*Uncertified*	*Total deaths*
2002	518	468	1	987
2003	509	457	2	968
2004	482	416	2	900
2005	456	423	1	880
2006	475	411	1	887

[1] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Crown Lands and Estates: Wind Power

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 289W, on Crown lands and estates: wind power, what proportion of the income derived by the Crown Estate from wind powered electricity generating installations situated offshore came from *(a)* rental fees charged to third party wind power generators and *(b)* wind powered electricity generated by Crown Estate operations in each financial year since 2001-02. [185949]

Angela Eagle: The income is wholly derived from rental fees.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each of the last 10 years. [183003]

Angela Eagle: For advertising costs I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) by the then Financial Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 376W. Details of advertising spending for years prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of departmental spending can be found in Chapter 7 of HM Treasury Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 HC 518, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179836]

Angela Eagle: There is one display featuring photographs of Ministers in HM Treasury. It is not possible to provide details of the cost of the display over the last five years, but expenditure on individual additions to it over the years will have been minimal. I am not aware of any other displays or posters featuring the names and photographs of Ministers in the Treasury's agencies.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 615W, on departmental training, what training is undertaken by the Performance and Efficiency Team; and how much his Department spent on training in 2006-07. [178345]

Angela Eagle: Treasury staff, including those in the Performance and Efficiency team, undertake a range of training in core areas of Treasury business such as public spending. On the costs of training in 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2236W.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid to recruitment agencies in relation to departmental appointments in each year since 1997. [184920]

Angela Eagle: I refer the to the answer given by the former Financial Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1000-01W.

Employment: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each London borough was in (i) 2001 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [185239]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 Febaruy 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking what the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each London borough was in (i) 2001 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. (185239)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the employment rate, for men and women of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59) resident in each London borough for the 12 months ending in February 2002, from the annual LFS, and June 2007, from the APS. Corresponding employment levels are also provided for the number of people employed, aged 16+, in each London borough.

These estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical areas, and are based on small sample sizes. They are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Male and Female Employment in London boroughs in the 12 months ending February 2002 and June 2007

thousand

12 months ending	*February 2002*				*June 2007*			
	Male		*Female*		*Male*		*Female*	
	Number[1]	*Rate (%)*[2]	*Number*[1]	*Rate (%)*[2]	*Numbe*[1]	*Rate (%)*[2]	*Number*[1]	*Rate (%)*[2]
Barking and Dagenham	38	77	30	58	38	75	30	56
Barnet	85	84	69	66	96	78	74	66
Bexley	57	83	48	70	58	80	47	67
Brent	65	72	57	62	72	75	50	58
Bromley	77	83	67	72	80	85	72	73
Camden	52	73	43	58	54	71	46	61
City of London	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Croydon	84	80	78	72	88	76	82	72
Ealing	79	76	64	60	85	77	63	60
Enfield	67	76	55	62	76	79	54	59
Greenwich	52	75	46	64	52	72	48	64
Hackney	40	61	38	55	50	66	39	54
Hammersmith and Fulham	47	80	40	65	50	74	42	64
Haringey	49	65	42	53	59	74	48	63
Harrow	53	78	47	68	60	81	49	66
Havering	57	82	49	73	60	83	49	73
Hillingdon	65	84	54	68	66	76	54	65
Hounslow	56	78	50	70	58	78	47	65
Islington	44	74	36	57	45	71	39	61
Kensington and Chelsea	43	76	33	55	49	73	35	53
Kingston-upon-Thames	43	85	34	71	47	84	37	71
Lambeth	70	74	62	67	70	76	53	57
Lewisham	58	70	54	63	64	72	60	66
Merton	54	85	44	72	55	81	49	72
Newham	49	63	35	45	59	70	36	45
Redbridge	59	76	50	67	62	75	49	59
Richmond-upon-Thames	50	86	45	75	54	83	46	72
Southwark	57	68	52	61	64	73	48	57
Sutton	51	87	44	78	51	84	44	72
Tower Hamlets	42	62	31	48	47	64	30	42
Waltham Forest	53	74	47	63	53	73	46	63
Wandsworth	77	85	72	74	76	80	69	69
Westminster, City of	48	73	39	59	55	69	41	54

n/a = Not available.

1. Number of employed aged 16+.

2. Number of employed as a percentage of working age population.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey.

Excise Duties: Diesel Fuel

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will freeze the level of duty on diesel; and if he will make a statement. [185631]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) and the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Income Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who have made an incorrect income tax payment in each year since 1997. [184784]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available. At pre-Budget report (PBR) 2007, HMRC published 'Developing Methodologies for Measuring Direct Tax Losses'. This included an estimate of the proportion of those receiving an income tax self assessment tax return (individuals, partnerships and trusts) who had understated their tax liability for each of 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02. It can be found on the internet at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/mdtl-direct.pdf.

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182840]

Angela Eagle: The Debt Management Office, Government Actuary's Department and National Savings and Investments have had no reported cases of bullying over the last 12 months.

HM Treasury, Office for National Statistics, Office of Government Commerce, OGC Buying Solutions, Royal Mint and the Valuation Office Agency have reported five cases or fewer but are unable to provide a further breakdown in order to avoid the possibility of identification of individuals.

The following table identifies the number of cases reported at HMRC. The figures do not reflect the outcomes of investigations that may have taken place.

Department/Agency: HM Revenue and Customs

	Number
January	[1]—
February	[1]—
March	8
April	[1]—
May	13
June	11
July	8
August	7
September	9
October	16
November	9
December	13

[1] Fewer than 5 cases

Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working age lone parents his Department estimates live in each region in the UK, broken down by sex. [184848]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of lone parents of working age living in each region of the UK. (184848)

The information requested is given in the table overleaf. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending in

June of 2007.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of working age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] by region and sex, April to June 2007, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Lone fathers	*Lone mothers*	*All lone parents*
North-east	8	77	85
North-west	19	220	239
Yorkshire and Humberside	13	136	149
East midlands	13	106	118
West midlands	17	159	176
Eastern	10	137	146
London	16	278	294
South-east	19	185	204
South-west	13	113	126
Wales	8	92	100
Scotland	18	141	159
Northern Ireland	3	48	51
United Kingdom	156	1,692	1,848

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged or 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

Notes:

1. Figures at this detailed level are produced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) microdata which are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in spring 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series.
2. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

Labour Force Survey household dataset

Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* median employment income and *(b)* value of each (i) decile boundary and (ii) quartile boundary in employment income was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [185238]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what the *(a)* median employment income and *(b)* value of each (i) decile boundary and (ii) quartile boundary in employment income was in the most recent year for which figures are available. (185238)

Levels of earnings, including medians, deciles and quartiles, are estimated from the annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results for 2007 can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what date contract terms were agreed with consultants for work in relation to the Poynter Review; [184969]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2098W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, on what date the decision was taken to appoint Kieran Poynter to head the review; [184970]

(3) how many other candidates were considered to head the review; [184971]

(4) on what terms Kieran Poynter was contracted to head the review of data handling in HM Revenue and Customs; [184972]

(5) on what date the decision was taken to conduct a review into security processes and procedures for data handling in HM Revenue and Customs. [184973]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor announced the appointment of Kieran Poynter to review of HMRC data handling procedures in his statement to the House on 20 November. It would be inappropriate to disclose details of the selection process.

Following this statement, HM Treasury entered into a contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) who are supporting Kieran Poynter in delivering the Review. The contract is commercially confidential.

Revenue and Customs: Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1962W, on Revenue and Customs: postal services, what proportion of non-recorded post was made up of bulk mail in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 to date. [184698]

Angela Eagle: The proportion of non-recorded post made up of bulk mail is as follows:

	Percentage
2005-06	70.6
2006-07	72.7
2007-08 to date (December 2007)	76.9

Bulk mail covers any item of outward mail for which there is an element of pre-sorting or is dispatched from one of HMRC's major distribution or processing centres, i.e. self assessment tax returns sent to customers for completion.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184692]

Angela Eagle: The figures for 2007 are:

Department/agency	*Number of sexual harassment cases*	*Number of sexual discrimination cases*
HMT	0	0
HMRC	9	11
ONS	0	<5
OGC	0	0
OGCBS	0	0
GAD	0	0
VGA	<5	<5
Royal Mint	0	0
NS and I	0	0
DMO	0	0

Key: < = less than

Note:

When the number is less than five, the exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

Skin Cancer

Mrs. James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer amongst what *(a)* age ranges and *(b)* social classes the incidence rates for malignant melanoma increased most rapidly in the latest period for which figures are available. [185435]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking amongst what (a) age ranges and (b) social class the incidence rates for malignant melanoma have increased most rapidly in the last period for which figures are available. [185435]

The most recent available incidence rates for melanoma of skin, by (a) age ranges for England, are for 2005. They are available in a first release on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7720

Age-specific rates for England for 1995-2004 are published in the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations (Series MB1) available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

Graphs showing age-specific incidence rates for malignant melanoma of skin in England and Wales by sex for 1971-1997 can be found in Chapter 13 of 'Cancer Trends in England and Wales 1950-1999'. This publication and data updates for incidence trends to 2001, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=4822

The latest available incidence rates for melanoma of skin by socio-economic deprivation for patients diagnosed in 1988-1993 in England and Wales were published in 2001: Quinn M et al. (2001) 'Cancer Trends in England and Wales, 1950-1999'. Studies in Medical and Population Subjects No.66. London: The Stationery Office. This is available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Productasp?vlnk=4822

Mrs. James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence rate was for malignant melanoma in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of trends in such rates over the last 30 years. [185438]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence rates were for malignant melanoma in the last period for which figures are available; and what assessment has been made of trends in such rates over the last 30 years. [185438]

The most recent available incidence rates for malignant melanoma of skin for England are for 2005. They are available in a first release on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statististics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7720

Incidence rates for malignant melanoma of skin for 2004 and earlier are published in the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations (Series MB1) available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

'Cancer Trends in England and Wales 1950-1999', and updates for incidence trends to 2001, are available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=4822

Directly age-standardised rates of malignant melanoma of skin, by sex, from 1976-2005 are given in the table below.

Incidence rates[1] of malignant melanoma of skin[2], by sex, England, 1976-2005

	Males	Females
1976	2.4	4.2
1977	2.4	4.1
1978	2.6	4.3
1979	2.8	4.8
1980	3.0	5.0
1981	3.3	5.5
1982	3.3	5.8
1983	3.6	6.1
1984	3.5	6.1
1985	4.6	7.7
1986	4.7	7.4
1987	5.3	8.4
1988	6.3	9.1
1989	5.7	8.5
1990	6.2	7.7
1991	6.1	7.9
1992	6.7	8.8
1993	7.7	9.9
1994	7.6	9.8
1995	7.8	10.1
1996	7.9	9.8
1997	8.6	10.1
1998	8.8	10.1
1999	8.8	10.4
2000	10.0	11.4
2001	10.6	12.3
2002	11.0	12.5
2003	11.2	12.8
2004	12.1	13.6
2005	13.2	14.5

[1] Directly age-standardised rates per 100,000 population.

[2] Malignant melanoma of skin is defined as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) and 172 in ICD—8 and 9.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the major brands of smuggled hand-rolled tobacco seized were in each of the last five years for which data is available; [185357]

(2) what proportion, by weight, of the smuggled hand-rolling tobacco seized was *(a)* industry manufactured and *(b)* counterfeit in each of the last five years for which data is available; [185358]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of the smuggled UK cigarette market made up of counterfeit brands in each of the last five years for which data is available. [185359]

Angela Eagle: In each of the last five years, the major brands of hand-rolling tobacco seized by HMRC have been Cutters Choice, Drum, Golden Virginia, Old Holborn, Raw, Samson and The Turner.

From 2003-05 HMRC seizures of hand-rolling tobacco over 10Okgs were analysed, of which approximately 87 per cent. by weight was industry manufactured and 13 per cent. was counterfeit.

From October 2006 to December 2007, HMRC seizures of hand-rolling tobacco over 50 kgs were analysed, of which approximately 86 per cent. by weight was industry manufactured and 14 per cent. was counterfeit.

Although HMRC do not routinely estimate the counterfeit share of the illicit cigarette market, they do publish in HMRC's annual report their own analysis of the provenance of large cigarette seizures (individual seizures in excess of 100,000 sticks). This information explains the proportion of such seizures found to be counterfeit and the principal non-counterfeit brands seized.

Tax Avoidance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be affected in each parliamentary constituency by the proposed amendments to income shifting legislation proposed in the consultation document of 6 December 2007. [184752]

Angela Eagle: No such estimates have been made. Whole economy estimates of the number of businesses that will be affected by the proposed new income shifting legislation are published in the consultation stage impact assessment in Annex C of the consultation document.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he, his Ministers or his officials have met representatives of *(a)* Friends of the Earth, *(b)* Greenpeace, *(c)* the World Wildlife Fund, *(d)* AirportWatch, *(e)* the Aviation Environment Federation, *(f)* HACAN Clearskies, *(g)* Stop Stansted Expansion, *(h)* Plane Stupid, *(i)* the Council for the Protection of Rural England, *(j)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *(k)* the Woodland Trust and *(l)* Enoughsenough to discuss issues related to (i) the sustainable growth and (ii) environmental taxation of aviation in the UK since 2007. [185817]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

However, section D1 of the Government's consultation document on aviation duty published on 31 January lists a number of organisations which had been part of the informal consultation process prior to publication. We welcome representations from all organisations in response to the consultation document which may be viewed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Consultations_and_Legislation/consult_index.cfm.

Taxation: Business

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer after what period of time HM Revenue and Customs sends reminders to companies informing them of their obligation to send belated payments of tax. [185364]

Angela Eagle: The main company taxes are corporation tax and VAT. In addition, companies are required to pay to HMRC PAYE and national insurance contributions deducted from their employees' remuneration, and in some cases to make these payments on behalf of their employees.

Each tax is administered under different legislation and, as such, the timing of reminders for payment for each duty may differ. Comprehensive guidance for companies required to make payments is available on the HM Revenue and Customs website and is accessible at:

www.hmrc.co.uk.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to prevent the resending of tax late payment reminders to companies who have paid. [185368]

Angela Eagle: HMRC processes payments and updates customers' accounts within 24 hours of receiving them in the vast majority of cases.

In a small number of cases, we are unable to credit customers' accounts immediately, usually because the payment is received with insufficient information.

In such cases the payments are allocated to a suspense account while inquiries are made to establish the account or record that is to be credited. Where such a payment is made on the due date for the tax, it is therefore possible that a reminder will be issued while the payment is in the suspense account.

Every payment application or notice to pay issued by HMRC carries full 'How to pay' guidance. This clearly sets out the information needed to allocate payments correctly. An expanded version of this guidance is available on the HMRC website and is accessible on

www.hmrc.co.uk.

Any customer who is having difficulty with a particular payment method can phone the payment helpline for advice.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people did not return their tax returns on 31 January 2007; and how much was *(a)* imposed and *(b)* received in resultant fines. [184582]

Angela Eagle: 1,007,012 taxpayers did not file self assessment returns by 31 January 2007. It is not possible to derive the amount of penalties imposed because penalties are capped to the amount of tax due where that is less than the penalty. The final amount received is not yet available.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects that the technical problem on the HM Revenue and Customs computer system, preventing conclusion of the 2004-05 tax credits claim of Mr. Marshall of Ferndown, will be resolved; what the nature of the problem is; how many claimants are similarly affected; and if he will make a statement. [184966]

Angela Eagle: Tax Credit Office sent a further letter to the hon. Member about his constituent's tax credits claim on 6 February 2008.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people did not submit a tax return before the 31 January deadline when required to in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [184989]

Angela Eagle: The number of people with self assessment tax returns outstanding at 31 January since 1997 is shown in the following table

	Due date	*Thousand*
1996-97	31 January 1998	666
1997-98	31 January 1999	820
1998-99	31 January 2000	877
1999-2000	31 January 2001	949
2000-01	31 January 2002	860
2001-02	31 January 2003	875
2002-03	31 January 2004	894
2003-04	31 January 2005	928
2004-05	31 January 2006	879
2005-06	31 January 2007	1,007

The figure for 2006-07 tax returns (due date 31 January 2008) is not yet available.

Unemployment: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the working-age population in Wirral borough were unemployed in the last period for which figures are available. [184963]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question what percentage of the working age population in Wirral borough were unemployed in the last period for which figures are available. (184963)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The number of people unemployed, of working age, resident in the Wirral Unitary Authority for the 12 months ending in June 2007 is estimated to have been 10,000, or 5.3 per cent. of the resident working age population.

This estimate is for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, and is based on small sample sizes. It is therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 1, attached, shows the number of people, resident in the Wirral Unitary Authority claiming JSA in December 2007. July 2007 data has also been provided for comparison. The number of claimants is also shown as a percentage of the resident working age population.

Table 1: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and proportions of working age population for residents of Wirral unitary authority

	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)
June 2007	6,171	3.3
December 2007	5,985	3.2

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.

Wines: Imports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what restrictions there are on the importation of low alcohol wine from EU Member States; and what plans he has to review such arrangements. [185382]

Angela Eagle: Wine with an alcoholic strength of less than 1.2 per cent is not subject to excise duty and consequently there are no restrictions concerning its importation. Wine exceeding this strength is subject to UK excise duty and, although there are no restrictions concerning its importation, there are rules to ensure that the correct amount of excise duty is paid.

In order to import wine into the UK for commercial purposes, a trader must be an authorised warehousekeeper, a registered excise dealer or shipper (REDS) or follow the rules for occasional importers. In all cases, UK excise duty is due on receipt of the goods, unless they are consigned to an excise warehouse authorised to receive that type of product, in which case they can be stored in duty suspension until they are released for consumption in the UK.

Wine imported by private individuals is not subject to UK excise duty, provided it is for their own personal use and they personally travel with the goods.

The European Commission is in the process of reviewing the EU legislation governing the intra-EU movement of excise goods.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether it is the Government's policy to publish geographic telephone numbers of Government Departments and agencies that use non-geographic numbers for call centres. [177945]

Mr. Watson: The Central Office of Information (COI) has issued guidance which is available at:

http://www.coi.gov.uk/documents/gcc-second-edition.pdf

I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Charter of Fundamental Rights

15. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment the Law Officers' Departments have made of the enforceability of the charter of fundamental rights in the UK under the terms of the Treaty of Lisbon. [185157]

The Solicitor-General: In accordance with the usual convention I cannot comment on whether the Law Officers have been asked to assess the enforceability of the Charter under the Lisbon Treaty but it may be of assistance if I set out the Government's position. Article 1(8)(1) of the Lisbon Treaty gives the Charter of Fundamental Rights "the same legal value as the Treaties". The Charter records existing rights, freedoms and principles by which EU member states, including the UK, are already bound when they implement EU law and makes sure that the EU institutions are bound to respect the same rights, freedoms and principles. It does not, and was not intended to, create new rights.

Crown Prosecution Service

16. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions the Crown Prosecution Service has had on possible prosecutions for loss of data by the Government in the last six months. [185158]

The Solicitor-General: Should the police investigate the incidents of loss of data and require advice of a general nature or charging advice then the Crown Prosecution Service stand ready to provide it.

17. **John Robertson:** To ask the Solicitor-General what policy the Crown Prosecution Service has on seeking community sentences. [185159]

The Solicitor-General: Crown prosecutors have a duty to assist the court when sentence is being considered. This may include advising the court about the appropriate sentencing range, having regard to sentencing guidelines. However, Crown prosecutors do not recommend or seek particular sentences, as that is a matter for the court.

Cannabis Factories

18. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults found in cannabis factories were prosecuted for drug-related offences in each of the last three years. [185160]

The Solicitor-General: Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records do not hold information about the location in which an offence was committed. The information may be held on individual case files, but could be retrieved only by locating and examining every relevant file in each CPS office and would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

The CPS does however hold some information. Tables, which have been placed in the Library show the volume and the proportion of cases falling into the drugs offences category for each of the last three years broken down by defendant type; adult offender and young offender. The tables also show the volume and the proportion of cases resulting in a conviction, and in an unsuccessful outcome.

Rape

19. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Government are taking to improve investigations and prosecutions of cases involving rape. [185161]

The Solicitor-General: Following the consultation, "Convicting Rapists and Protecting Victims—Justice for Victims of Rape", the Government propose to allow all victims of rape to rely on their visually-recorded evidence in court, and to look at how general psychological expert evidence could be presented at trial. The Government also propose to legislate to ensure that all complaints of rape made by victims to third parties are admissible as evidence. A cross-government Rape Performance Group monitors the performance of police forces and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) areas in rape cases, intervening to provide guidance where appropriate and reporting to an Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Sexual Offending.

SCOTLAND

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180693]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office incurred expenditure of £10,044 with Capita Group plc for a senior civil service assessment centre run on the office's behalf by the Scottish Executive under a pre-existing contract they have with Capita Group plc. The Scotland Office holds no information on the process by which that contract was awarded by the Scottish Executive.

Civil Servants

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil service jobs based in the Dundee Westminster parliamentary constituencies related to functions of government reserved under Schedule 5 of the Scotland Act have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* created since 1997. [184484]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning how many civil service jobs based in the Dundee Westminster Parliamentary constituencies related to functions of government reserved under Schedule 5 of the Scotland Act, have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* created since 1997. (184484)

Civil service statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. The latest published statistics are for September 2006.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1885

The statistics published include totals for Scotland and more detailed regional analysis can often be carried out on request. However, statistics related to jobs created and lost are not collected.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department in each year since 2004-05. [179026]

David Cairns: Since 2004-05, the Scotland Office has only incurred expenditure of £4,230.23 with KPMG in relation to a management review and assessment centre for the Head of Office.

Electoral Register

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many electors there are in each Westminster parliamentary constituency in Scotland based upon the new register of electors as at December 2007. [184709]

David Cairns: The statistics on electorate for UK parliamentary elections by constituency is co-ordinated by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), who receive information from electoral registration officers based on the registers published in December each year. GROS are due to publish the statistics on electorate based on the December 2007 publication of registers later in February. Electoral registration officers are not required to supply the Government with this information.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183878]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not operate staff catering facilities but when purchasing opportunities arise will look to use fair trade products wherever possible.

Scotland Office

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what functions in his Department are carried out in Scotland; and what the administration costs of these functions were in the last year for which figures are available. [185481]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office publishes information on its main activities in its annual report, a copy of which is in the House Library. As some of these activities take place in both Scotland and London, a record separating costs between Scotland and London is not maintained.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department in the last Session were unanswered at Prorogation; [166879]

(2) how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day have received a substantive reply on the day named since establishment of his Department. [166880]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's PQ tracking system is currently unable to break down the data requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. This Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavours to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to achieve these time scales.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) students and (ii) mature students enrolled on higher education courses in each year since 2001; [164207]

(2) when he will respond to question 164207 from the hon. Member for Brent East, tabled on 9 November 2007. [184407]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

UK domiciled enrolments by mode of study, level of study and age, English higher education institutions, academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

		Postgraduates		*Undergraduates*	
Academic year	*Mode of study*	*Total*	*Of which: mature*[1]	*Total*	*Of which: mature*[2]
2001/02	Full-time	86,210	43,570	773,515	307,820
	Part-time	203,640	187,420	458,080	439,765
	Total	289,850	230,985	1,231,595	747,585
2002/03	Full-time	90,595	44,640	803,025	325,205
	Part-time	207,165	190,020	473,675	455,300
	Total	297,760	234,665	1,276,700	780,505
2003/04	Full-time	93,940	46,120	823,145	335,725
	Part-time	212,850	193,955	484,020	464,290
	Total	306,785	240,075	1,307,160	800,020
2004/05	Full-time	93,220	45,985	838,145	341,855
	Part-time	213,865	194,100	482,300	460,795
	Total	307,085	240,085	1,320,445	802,645
2005/06	Full-time	96,845	48,935	865,560	346,655
	Part-time	213,920	194,395	484,305	460,125
	Total	310,765	243,330	1,349,865	806,785

[1] Mature postgraduates are 25 and over.
[2] Mature undergraduates are 21 and over.

Note:
The figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Written Questions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he will answer question 17[illegible] tabled by the hon. Member for Angus on 17 December 2007 on student loans. [184649]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 935W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent support his Department has offered to the government of Colombia in combating the smuggling of illegal drugs across the Colombia-Venezuela border. [185493]

Mr. Malik: Preventing the cross-border flow of illicit drugs from Colombia to neighbouring countries is a top priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK is investing in projects in Colombia and Venezuela to tackle the cross-border flow of illicit drugs. These projects have helped to build capacity amongst Colombian and Venezuelan law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. In addition, funding of a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime project on cross border co-operation has recently been approved.

We take a broad regional approach to tackling the trade in illicit drugs, through a mixture of political engagement, capacity building and law enforcement support in producer, transit and consumer countries. This includes working with Governments of other producer and transit countries in Latin America and countries along the main trafficking routes for drugs via the Caribbean and West Africa.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184320]

Mr. Malik: Our central records show the number of DFID mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and laptops lost, missing and stolen since 2001 are as follows:

	Lost	*Missing*	*Stolen*	*Total*
Mobile Phones	9	0	18	27
PDAs	0	0	2	2
Laptops	3	0	29	32

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185271]

Mr. Malik: Our central records show that during the last five years:

(a) No personal digital assistants were lost

(b) Two personal digital assistants were stolen, with a combined value of £183.45.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181531]

Mr. Malik: DFID's total travel expenditure for officials and Ministers for the years 2003-04 onwards is given in the following table with the percentage this represents of the Department's overall expenditure. These figures include the costs of travel, subsistence and accommodation.

These figures include the cost of ministerial travel as well as travel by officials. The figures also include the costs of all visits and travel including for example travel within the UK, from overseas to the UK, as well as from the UK to overseas. It is not possible to separate out the costs of travel within the UK and travel outside the UK without incurring disproportionate cost.

In 2003-04 DFID introduced new procedures to draw together all administration costs including those travel costs which had previously been recorded on the programme budget. Information from 2001-02 to 2002-03 is given but is therefore not directly comparable with later years. Information from earlier years is not readily available.

	Travel Spend (£000)	*Percentage of overall expenditure*
2001-02	2,358	0.10
2002-03	2,645	0.09
2003-04	10,677	0.37
2004-05	13,337	0.41
2005-06	12,646	0.32
2006-07	12,128	0.26

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in DFID's Staff Handbook and complies with the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many overseas visits by officials in his Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181615]

Mr. Malik: DFID's total travel expenditure for officials and Ministers for the years 2003-04 onwards is given in the following table. These figures include the costs of travel, subsistence and accommodation.

These figures include the cost of ministerial visits as well as those by officials. The figures also include the costs of all visits and travel, including for example visits taking place within the UK, from overseas to the

UK, as well as overseas visits. It is not possible to separate out the costs of overseas visits specifically without incurring disproportionate cost.

In 2003-04 DFID introduced new procedures to draw together all administration costs including those travel costs which had previously been recorded on the programme budget. Information from 2001-02 to 2002-03 is given but is therefore not directly comparable with later years. Information from earlier years is not readily available.

	Travel Spend (£000)
2001-02	2,358
2002-03	2,645
2003-04	10,677
2004-05	13,337
2005-06	12,646
2006-07	12,128

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in DFID's Staff Handbook and complies with the Civil Service Management Code.

Developing Countries: Disaster Relief

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was provided to assist developing countries in the wake of natural emergencies and disasters in each of the last three years. [183105]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provided the following amounts towards assisting developing countries cope with the effects of natural emergencies and disasters (excluding conflict-related spending):

Financial year	*£*
2004-05, excluding Africa	67,622,537
2005-06, excluding Africa	54,767,318
2006-07, including Africa	22,664,112
2007-08 so far, including Africa	32,735,315

It is not possible to disaggregate figures for natural disasters only (from conflict-related figures) for Africa before the financial year 2006-07.

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many cases of bullying have been reported in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last 12 months. [182846]

Gillian Merron: DFID has had less than five complaints of bullying reported in the last 12 months. DFID's only agency, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, does not employ any staff.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 21 December 2007, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. S. Smith. [185052]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The reply to my right hon. Friend's letter of 21 December 2007 has been issued.

Pacific Islands: EU Aid

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries in the Pacific have received UK aid via the EU in each of the last five years; and how much each country received. [184703]

Mr. Malik: EU support for Pacific countries is financed from the European development fund. The UK share of the EDF from 2001 to 2005 was 12.69 per cent. Details of the UK's imputed official development assistance provided via the EU to countries and territories in the Pacific over the last five years are laid out in the following table.

Table 1. Imputed UK share of EC official development assistance (ODA), 2001 to 2005

					£000
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Cook Is.	—	—	45	82	—
Fiji	-111	-65	312	1,515	1,380
French Polynesia	594	131	938	464	—
Kiribati	31	72	212	260	293
Marshall Is.	—	—	—	—	—
FS Micronesia	—	—	—	—	—
Nauru	—	—	—	—	—
New Caledonia	-73	51	4	992	—
Niue	—	—	—	—	43
Northern Mariana Is.	—	—	—	—	—
Palau	—	—	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	379	411	254	540	884
Samoa	839	468	132	131	198
Solomon Is.	2,776	339	382	221	1,589
Tokelau	—	—	—	—	—
Tonga	-65	4	163	255	193
Tuvalu	111	26	—	175	200
Vanuatu	384	348	295	192	388
Wallis and Futuna	—	4	148	90	26
Oceania Unspecified	58	318	873	1,136	741

Note:
Negatives figures represent accounting adjustments, not a net flow to the UK.

Rwanda: Economic Situation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to assist the Rwandan government in achieving economic development. [183104]

Gillian Merron: Over the last 10 years the UK has provided £380 million of development assistance to fund the recovery of Rwanda from the legacy of the 1994 genocide. With the help of this support Rwanda has experienced strong economic growth with an annual average of around 7 per cent. Poverty rates have also fallen from 74 per cent. in 1994 to 57 per cent. in 2007. This year, DFID expects to provide £46 million, of which £33 million will be direct budget support to the government, much of this to be directed towards supporting and accelerating economic growth.

In addition, DFID is contributing £3 million to the implementation of the Agricultural Transformation Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. This is designed to stimulate the economic prosperity of the rural population and improve their living conditions within a modernised agricultural sector.

DFID is also directly supporting the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to implement large scale land reforms to encourage the best use of land and protect people's ownership rights. This is a fundamental part of economic development and helps to provide a more stable economic environment which encourages individual investment.

Finally, at the request of the GoR, DFID together with the World Bank and the Africa Development Bank, has initiated detailed growth analysis work. This will focus on sustaining and increasing economic growth rates by identifying constraints to growth and developing prioritised actions to address these.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints of *(a)* sexual harassment and *(b)* sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184683]

Gillian Merron: DFID has had one complaint of sexual harassment reported and no complaints of sexual discrimination reported in the last 12 months. DFID's only agency, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, does not employ any staff.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* the co-ordination of agencies engaged in protection activities in Darfur and *(b)* the effectiveness of such agencies in providing protection for civilians. [184256]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

We have not yet assessed the effectiveness of the co-ordination of civilian protection in Darfur following the assumption of peacekeeping authority by the African Union-UN hybrid mission (UNAMID) on 31 December, as many of the relevant structures and personnel are not yet in place. UNAMID is mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 to protect civilians, which it will carry out in co-ordination with other UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations.

Prior to 31 December 2007, UNMIS (the UN Mission in Sudan set up to support implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan) contributed towards civilian protection in Darfur through information-gathering and sharing with the African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan and humanitarian agencies. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration also delivered civilian protection in Darfur.

Former UNMIS staff now work for UNAMID, which will include a civilian element of approximately 5,000 staff when fully established. UNAMID has appointed Humanitarian Affairs Officers to co-ordinate with the UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations. We are monitoring this transition.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK development funding was given to Yemen in 2007; on what dates funding was provided; what plans there are to fund development projects in Yemen in 2008; on what dates that funding will be provided; and what plans there are for the funding of development projects in Yemen in the 10 years after 2008. [185042]

Mr. Malik: In the calendar year 2007, DFID bilateral aid to Yemen was £12,383,756. The disbursement dates are as follows:

	£
January - March	1,682,020
April - June	2,657,776
July - September	4,427,616
October - December	3,616,344

We are currently unable to provide figures for total UK development funding to Yemen in 2007, which includes UK contributions to multilateral institutions, as these figures have not yet been published.

In financial year 2008-09, DFID's bilateral budget to Yemen will be £20 million. DFID is in the process of finalising the Department's specific commitments to Yemen for the remainder of calendar year 2008. Based on expenditure so far in 2008 and current programme plans for the remainder of 2008, we expect overall spend for calendar year 2008 to be £21.2 million, broken down as follows:

	£ million
Education	5.6
Good Governance	4
Judicial reforms	0.65
Social Fund for Development	7.8
Health Care	0.75
Water and Sanitation	1.8
Emergency relief, Saada	0.6

In 2006, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development decided to progressively increase the Department's assistance to Yemen from £12 million in 2007-08 to £50 million in 2010-11. During my visit to Yemen in August 2007, I signed a 10-year Development Partnership Arrangement with the Deputy Prime Minister of Yemen and Minister for Planning and International Co-operation. This confirmed the UK's long-term commitment to support Yemen achieve its development priorities. This arrangement also set out our financing commitments to Yemen for the financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11.

We wish to maximise the impact of DFID's additional resources for Yemen. We are therefore focusing our efforts in a small number of strategic areas. This includes expanding our support to existing programmes in education, justice and policing, public financial management and the social fund for development. We are also planning to expand into a small number of new areas we believe are critical to promoting Yemen's prosperity and stability. For example, we approved in January 2008 an initial £500,000 of support to a programme to simplify business tax policy and processes. This will improve the prospects for growth of the private sector in Yemen and also increase tax revenues for the Government of Yemen to increase its fiscal stability. We are also exploring possible support to the water sector in Yemen to help the country address its looming water crisis.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare: Protest

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce a dedicated scheme to compensate victims of crimes committed by animal rights extremists. [181643]

Meg Hillier: The Government have no plans to introduce a scheme to compensate victims of crimes committed by animal rights extremists. We are committed to eradicating the threat of animal rights extremism which is backed up by a robust interdepartmental strategy centred on an improved law enforcement approach. That strategy has helped to deliver a sharp fall in animal rights extremist activity and an increase in the number of animal rights extremists brought to justice.

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish a qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour interventions. [173828]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has commissioned research to examine regional variations in the use of antisocial behaviour interventions. This is the first step to developing further work into the comparative effectiveness of different approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour. The first stage of the research into regional variations will be completed by summer 2008. We anticipate that the second stage will be completed by late 2009.

Arrests: Anabolic Steroids

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, arrested and convicted of supplying anabolic steroids in England and Wales in 2006. [185369]

Mr. Coaker: The Ministry of Justice confirm that one offender was cautioned for supplying anabolic steroids in England and Wales in 2006 and that there were no convictions for this offence in 2006. Information on arrests for such offences is not available centrally.

Circumcision: Females

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to the police on charging those suspected of carrying out female circumcision. [184846]

Mr. Coaker: Guidance for the police on effectively responding to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is contained within the Association of Chief Police Officers' "Guidance on Investigating Child Abuse and Safeguarding Children", issued in March 2005. Further guidance on dealing with suspected cases of FGM is available to the police, and to other agencies with responsibility for safeguarding children, in "Working Together to Safeguard Children", the main multi-agency guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, issued in 2006.

These pieces of guidance build upon a Home Office Circular on the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, issued to police forces in 2004, which aimed to raise awareness of the cultural context within which FGM is perpetrated, and also to advise the police that it is unacceptable to leave suspected cases of FGM un-investigated, as to do so could send out a message that this harmful practice is somehow acceptable. It is not, and it is right that perpetrators should be subject to criminal sanction.

Charging alleged offenders is the responsibility of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS has incorporated FGM into its "Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence", which is disseminated to all prosecutors and is accompanied by a modular training package which will be rolled out to all CPS areas by the end of 2008.

Crime: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantities of class A drugs were seized by *(a)* the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action group in 2005-06 and *(b)* the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07. [185388][1]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the quantities of Class A drugs seized by the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action Group in 2005-06 is contained in HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Annual Report:

Heroin: 2,218kg
Cocaine: 15,341kg

Details of drug interdictions flowing from the Serious Organised Crime Agency's work are provided in SOCA's 2006-07 Annual Report:

Heroin: 73 tonnes
Cocaine: 1.5 tonnes

Crime: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of levels of e-crime. [184223]

Mr. Coaker: The Government prosecute all crimes based on illegal actions and not the medium used. As such, all legislation criminalises offences regardless of whether they were committed on or off line and so there are no estimated levels of e-crime.

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[1] *[Official Report, 20 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 10MC.]*

However, APACS estimate that total losses for online banking fraud amounted to £33.5 million in 2006. With regard to card fraud there were £154.5 million in losses over the internet during 2006 up by 32 per cent. from 2005 when internet losses were £117.0 million. (These losses are where people have been defrauded on their cards during a transaction over the internet—rather than the online banking losses which are attributable to phishing or Trojans).

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report,* columns 83-84W, on genetics: databases, how many of the 22,700 people who voluntarily provided a DNA sample were later *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged with an offence before the decision was made to retain their sample on the national database. [175632]

Meg Hillier: This information is not held centrally.

'Volunteer' samples may be requested from victims of crime, persons who may have had legitimate access to a crime scene, or from individuals in relation to an intelligence-led screen of a particular subgroup of the population from which an offender is thought to come, for elimination purposes in the investigation of a specific offence. The individual concerned must provide written consent for the sample to be taken. Volunteer subject sample profiles are only added to the national DNA database (NDNAD) where the individual has also given separate written consent for their profile to be loaded and retained on the NDNAD. In practice, only a relatively small proportion of volunteer subject sample profiles are added to the NDNAD.

Human Trafficking

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for offences relating to human trafficking in (i) Leicester and (ii) the East Midlands in the last four years. [184227]

Mr. Coaker: In the last four years there have been 27 arrests and five convictions in the East Midlands area for human trafficking offences. Of these 14 arrests and four convictions have been in Leicestershire.

Immigration

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the letter from the Minister for Immigration to the hon. Member for Thurrock dated 4 February 2008, why the presenting officer was not in a position to provide a copy of the Department's letter of 27 August 1998 to the constituent of the hon. Member for Thurrock at the constituent's appeal hearing on 16 October 2007; why there was no original copy on file; and if she will make a statement; [185517]

(2) whether the contents or substance of the letter from the Minister for Immigration of 4 February 2008 to the hon. Member for Thurrock were made available to the presiding judge at the hon. Member for Thurrock's constituent's appeal hearing on 31 January 2008; [185518]

(3) why the letter of response to the hon. Member for Thurrock from the Minister for Immigration dated 4 February 2008 was not dispatched as requested in question 180894 prior to the hon. Member for Thurrock's constituent's appeal hearing on 31 January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [185519]

Meg Hillier: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 7 February 2008.

Passports: Sexual Offences

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider revoking the passports in certain circumstances of convicted paedophiles on the Sex Offenders Register who wish to leave the country. [176895]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has the discretion to revoke a passport, but this is reserved for use in the most exceptional circumstances.

However, under sections 114-117 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, a chief officer of police may apply for a Foreign Travel Order to prevent a person who has been convicted of or cautioned for a sexual offence specified in section 116 of the 2003 Act against a child under 16 from travelling either to a particular country or to any country, if the offender has acted since his conviction in such a way as to give reasonable cause to believe that it is necessary for such an order to be made. The court may make the order if it considers it necessary for the purpose of protecting children generally or any child in particular from serious sexual harm from the offender outside the UK.

Such an order does not compel an offender to surrender his passport, but breach of a Foreign Travel Order, without reasonable excuse, is a criminal offence, and the penalty on indictment is up to five years' imprisonment.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 212-16W, on proceeds of crime, what proportion of confiscation orders were fully enforced in each police force area in each of the last 12 months. [184904]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available in the form requested. Confiscation orders enforced in a given period do not precisely match orders made in the same period, as the court may allow the defendant time for payment. The table shows the total value of confiscation orders enforced in each of the 12 months ending December 2007 from orders previously obtained by each police force in England and Wales, against criminals involved in drug crime. The figures in the tables exclude amounts enforced in respect of compensation ordered to be paid from the confiscation orders and amounts paid out in respect of receivers' costs.

2007

£

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	92,457.85	20,158.17	62,836.29	14,336.91	51,132.24	79,661.33
Bedfordshire Police	659.77	3,895.63	11,543.33	10,359.09	19,177.94	1,155.00
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	5,864.32	4,644.68	51,742.94	23,560.84	10,895.49	25,720.34
Cheshire Constabulary	675.00	5,435.00	31,791.18	132,639.06	4,135.00	5,683.59
City of London Police	190.00	7.75	19,800.00	148,377.39	82,718.38	0.00
Cleveland Police	1,078.28	348,478.82	3,339.91	2,240.20	100,780.79	4,580.97
Cumbria Constabulary	3,106.00	2,520.00	3,934.00	2,167.59	11,494.42	439.00
Derbyshire Constabulary	11,256.09	6,346.30	45,111.36	120,786.84	17,865.50	3,133.22
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	560,299.51	24,160.69	831.41	1,300.55	599.45	4,130.00
Dorset Police	6,777.42	1,383.94	36,266.82	11,629.97	452.30	3,518.14
Durham Constabulary	29,815.38	410.00	2,395.00	5,382.15	7,478.88	45,871.41
Dyfed-Powys Police	17.00	16,622.46	538.80	7,926.85	3,065.00	60,625.00
Essex Police	5,114.16	2,842.06	5,196.69	3,798.26	1,803.00	57,732.60
Gloucestershire Constabulary	41,637.56	90,720.80	11,385.80	7,330.12	4,867.46	215.97
Greater Manchester Police	22,576.98	55,769.69	50,917.75	88,835.14	33,180.93	253,698.59
Gwent Police	99.32	366.23	2,392.22	2,694.34	330,588.80	2,818.49
Hampshire Constabulary	16,860.33	4,677.00	7,211.38	6,146.00	850.00	3,141.44
Hertfordshire Constabulary	197,941.87	75.00	4,739.31	20.00	11,058.08	45,917.69
Humberside Police	8,098.93	7,604.68	6,215.87	13,340.00	4,271.90	40,848.20
Kent Police	1,050.17	31,960.25	3,855.49	10,412.75	34,891.82	2,321.27
Lancashire Constabulary	284,878.06	59,739.03	143,266.94	50,098.03	126,911.63	20,330.82
Leicestershire Constabulary	18,709.46	13,452.90	25,052.90	1.00	25,046.11	110,568.21
Lincolnshire Police	3,385.00	2,381.81	1,855.76	12,208.00	1,308.93	113,116.45
Merseyside Police	11,564.57	118,586.56	123,234.48	485,450.05	115,648.65	131,891.71
Metropolitan Police Service	372,277.96	530,110.98	381,329.85	215,117.46	206,843.52	294,905.59
Norfolk Constabulary	12,072.29	42.96	6,507.43	350.00	9,375.72	21,885.15
North Wales Police	1,120.00	280.00	9,856.38	1,335.49	44,330.00	2,575.50
North Yorkshire Police	0.00	32,707.84	20,551.90	0.00	21,762.52	14,851.81
Northamptonshire Police	87,160.62	56.00	20,663.12	56.00	966.00	4,324.54
Northumbria Police	2,056.72	11,941.24	31,376.19	1,881.53	14,713.47	232,161.71
Nottinghamshire Police	2,313.17	72,605.47	13,465.20	12,881.05	49,284.77	2,865.33
South Wales Police	68,064.71	54,403.05	87,324.77	6,551.78	15,266.81	17,656.63
South Yorkshire Police	30,496.84	12,211.53	50,119.37	76,393.77	15,266.89	4,261.72
Staffordshire Police	72,116.44	231.60	35,587.28	14,983.17	5,479.06	2,755.09
Suffolk Constabulary	5,064.46	4,977.17	1,484.[illegible]4	20,424.93	12,253.44	15,558.14
Surrey Police	3,370.00	200.00	3,440.00	0.00	690.00	4,961.93
Sussex Police	24,715.55	32,865.46	86,281.91	40,821.18	9,004.85	10,960.38
Thames Valley Police	9,025.37	10,303.26	23,112.05	17,150.09	108,373.34	65,753.11
Warwickshire Police	50.00	270.00	0.00	1,201.16	1,000.00	0.00
West Mercia Constabulary	3,251.76	13,179.81	1,673.00	2,763.27	823.00	3,576.49
West Midlands Police	18,555.25	57,862.64	46,231.42	7,141.00	3,949.18	110,456.97
West Yorkshire Police	236,364.44	22,916.54	206,792.30	119,470.90	104,248.31	78,941.65
Wiltshire Constabulary	9,840.29	469.86	1,170.52	60.00	3,519.95	28,707.09

£

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	238,288.62	3,796.37	22,377.65	34,191.76	84,292.97	12,108.52
Bedfordshire Police	4,326.94	570.24	15,569.05	20,612.76	10,311.06	2,572.87
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	6,276.97	10,934.97	11,568.06	15,854.40	20,866.18	107,909.69
Cheshire Constabulary	66,488.92	59,728.37	3,987.00	7,226.00	14,310.00	29,637.97
City of London Police	42.79	0.00	0.00	1,523.97	0.00	0.00
Cleveland Police	885.52	2,089.77	50.00	2,455.23	1,630.00	1,767.50
Cumbria Constabulary	17,479.25	16,635.24	36,864.67	1,157.50	8,925.28	775.00
Derbyshire Constabulary	4,197.83	40,625.72	3,579.00	607.10	12,285.48	9,983.58
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	800,473.96	10,601.98	60.00	5,536.50	2,381.50	12,360.76
Dorset Police	8,212.70	825.75	162,291.50	135,696.56	2,862.63	28.89
Durham Constabulary	1,520.43	100.00	8,178.00	2,801.64	4,961.85	41,250.51
Dyfed-Powys Police	25,633.44	16,957.55	5,837.11	3,735.56	4,000.00	4,219.71
Essex Police	14,517.09	28,525.83	2,403.00	3,400.81	36,566.00	9,634.05
Gloucestershire Constabulary	14,080.34	2,646.63	2,440.05	53,601.81	-8,982.09	16,000.36
Greater Manchester Police	147,306.91	163,675.57	95,013.14	142,553.62	36,409.66	319,921.13
Gwent Police	23,696.55	9,633.11	35,078.93	134,577.47	15,068.49	1,430.00

£

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Hampshire Constabulary	41,162.93	58,588.64	9,469.35	5,576.71	19,571.00	33,347.23
Hertfordshire Constabulary	64,546.29	72,913.52	693.21	105.00	114,945.30	278.86
Humberside Police	44,942.70	30,402.54	518,446.31	29,475.58	10,306.00	43,508.55
Kent Police	44,514.34	17,566.24	153,004.55	166,586.26	56,191.51	179,712.86
Lancashire Constabulary	8,943.01	48,082.53	22,380.93	6,343.40	16,078.00	2,238.11
Leicestershire Constabulary	8,098.55	792.46	7,862.43	21,871.64	1,302.30	14,511.50
Lincolnshire Police	2,199.90	920.00	451 .00	0.00	247.50	7,128.80
Merseyside Police	363,187.00	58,327.17	246,441.55	49,554.94	63,285.64	48,225.30
Metropolitan Police Service	349,601.43	108,125.96	464,149.47	708,693.98	176,086.52	160,354.95
Norfolk Constabulary	27,178.71	108,292.53	1,583.45	10,933.80	35,637.40	37,271 .29
North Wales Police	3,705.00	8,737.92	18,066.78	20,628.60	2,485.00	22,054.23
North Yorkshire Police	10,692.13	6,934.67	16,302.84	21,704.13	4,078.96	1,642.86
Northamptonshire Police	4,519.54	22,790.60	3,721.92	1 ,206.00	2,110.00	4,990.00
Northumbria Police	186,131.27	9,702.09	4,147.73	38,249.00	29,156.00	63,123.95
Nottinghamshire Police	10,157.32	29,208.17	15,064.73	7,397.80	41,530.51	12,487.89
South Wales Police	12,704.74	21,080.65	46,874.17	23,314.32	17,984.51	11,500.16
South Yorkshire Police	57,441.41	16,726.54	13,040.55	24,305.71	81,690.16	7,724.00
Staffordshire Police	43,996.57	4,212.00	11,622.00	924.29	22,503.58	14,344.54
Suffolk Constabulary	6,346.37	5,377.18	20,254.61	5,190.79	34,121.66	8,790.68
Surrey Police	4,000.37	30,441.33	6,000.00	112,281.91	29,619.26	0.00
Sussex Police	35,941.22	19,684.97	35,359.79	10,906.66	32,493.00	69,206.68
Thames Valley Police	1,257,463.06	21,090.44	93,568.45	125,472.69	74,035.05	13,720.68
Warwickshire Police	117.54	1,080.57	0.00	1,649.03	2,908.64	70.60
West Mercia Constabulary	12,975.80	845.00	1,212.33	6,012.45	6,853.94	15,108.29
West Midlands Police	53,246.95	64,889.72	51,275.66	37,901.27	14,994.08	45,785.48
West Yorkshire Police	41,466.48	106,666.63	100,188.86	107,776.36	28,571 .57	48,054.21
Wiltshire Constabulary	3,719.70	60,461.38	1,008.30	1,247.24	1,001.59	388.74

Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a decision to be reached on the application of Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi to enter the UK. [184292]

Mr. McNulty: Sheikh Qaradawi's tourist visa application has now been refused.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Finance

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding allocation he proposes to make to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [162334]

Kevin Brennan: The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has been initially allocated the following net amounts:

(£ million)

	Funding
2007-08	106.7
2008-09	114.9
2009-10	124.1

Children: Abuse

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of child sexual abuse committed by family members or carers of the victim; and if he will make a statement. [163432]

Kevin Brennan: In the year ending 31 March 2007, 2,500 children became the subject of a Child Protection Plan where the category of abuse was recorded as sexual abuse. The Department does not collect information on the perpetrators of abuse.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of child care and early years workers who have qualifications of a standard of less than NVQ Level 3. [163356]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Data on the qualifications of existing child care and early years workers in registered settings are collected as part of the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. Figures from the 2006 Survey on the proportion of staff holding qualifications at Level 1 or Level 2 are shown in the table as follows. These percentages are based on a sample survey of providers. Estimates of the number of staff with qualifications below Level 3 are not currently available. I will write to the hon. Member with further information in the near future if the additional analysis required to produce these estimates is feasible.

Table: qualifications held by all paid early years and child care workers

Level 1 or 2	*Percentage*
Full day care	15
Full day care in children's centres	12
Sessional	21
After school clubs	24
Holiday clubs	23
Childminders	14
Nursery schools	7
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	8
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	9

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to issue guidance to schools on raising awareness among pupils of the risks associated with alcohol. [185383]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people, including that relating to alcohol. Alcohol education is delivered alongside that on drugs and volatile substances and is a vital element of our approach. The Department issued its "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" to all maintained schools in February 2004. This makes clear our intention for pupils to be educated about alcohol and its effects in primary school—before drinking patterns become established—and for this to be revisited in secondary school as pupils' understanding and experience increases.

We are, however, clear of the need to be sure that alcohol education in schools is robust, accurate and effective. As part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to examine the effectiveness of current delivery arrangements for all drugs education—including alcohol—and act to strengthen them if necessary.

Obesity

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to identify families with an increased risk of obesity. [185367]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Health Promotion Programme (CHPP) consists of a schedule of screening tests, developmental surveillance health protection, health promotion and parenting guidance. Throughout the CHPP, a series of health reviews provide an opportunity for health professionals to identify families that are most at risk from child weight issues and least able to tackle them. In particular, the assessment by the 12th week of pregnancy allows health professionals to identify mothers who are already obese or overweight, and to give them advice on healthy weight gain in pregnancy. This is crucial for their baby's development, safety and also to ease delivery.

In addition to the CHPP, the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is an important element of the Government's work to address the serious and growing problem of childhood obesity. Established in 2005, the NCMP weighs and measures children in reception year (aged four to five years) and year six (aged 10 to 11 years). Significantly improved coverage has produced one of the largest collection of data on children's height and weight in the world, and this is now being used to inform local planning and delivery of services for children and gather population level data to allow analysis of trends in excess weight.

Teenage Pregnancy: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of teenage pregnancy in Bexley was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in each of the last two years. [185735]

Beverley Hughes: The rate of under-18 conceptions in Bexley for each year from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year for which data are available) is provided in the following table.

Year	*Percentage rate*
1997	37.0
1998	37.2
1999	42.7
2000	34.7
2001	43.9
2002	40.1
2003	41.2
2004	38.3
2005	35.7

The baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy is 1998. Since then, the under-18 conception rate in Bexley has fallen by 4.2 per cent. This is below the rate of progress in England as a whole—where the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 11.4 per cent. —and in contrast to areas that have similar population characteristics to Bexley, which have achieved impressive reductions. For example, the under-18 conception rate in Havering has fallen by 18 per cent.

To tackle the wide variation in progress between local areas, we have issued guidance to local authorities and primary care trusts, setting out the key ingredients of successful local strategies—based on evidence of what is working in local areas which have made most progress. This evidence identified that successful strategies need to have in place:

Active engagement of all of the key mainstream delivery partners who have a role in reducing teenage pregnancies—Health, Education, Social Services and Youth Support Services—and the voluntary sector;

A strong senior champion who is accountable for and has taken the lead in driving forward the local strategy;

The availability of a well publicised young people-centred contraceptive and sexual health advice service, with a strong remit to undertake health promotion work, as well as delivering reactive services;

A high priority given to PSHE in schools, with support from the local authority to develop comprehensive programmes of sex and relationships education (SRE) in all schools;

> A strong focus on targeted interventions with young people at greatest risk of teenage pregnancy, in particular with Looked After Children;
>
> The availability (and consistent take-up) of SRE training for professionals in partner organisations (such as Connexions Personal Advisers, Youth Workers and Social Workers) working with the most vulnerable young people; and
>
> A well resourced Youth Service, providing things to do and places to go for young people, with a clear focus on addressing key social issues affecting young people, such as sexual health and substance misuse.

I am asking areas like Bexley—where rates are either increasing or where progress is slow—to use this guidance to review and update their local strategies. This work is being supported by Government offices who are providing appropriate support and challenge to each the local area. As part of that approach, we are encouraging all areas that are significantly behind trajectory to consider including teenage pregnancy as a priority in their local area agreements that they are currently negotiating with Government offices. The aim is to accelerate progress in all areas to the levels of the best—if all areas had performed as well as the top quartile, the national reduction would be 26 per cent., more than twice the reduction actually achieved.

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to the question 171461, on the number of mainstream secondary schools that have not entered students for a GCSE in modern languages, tabled by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 30 November. [174732]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 217W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Biodiversity

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been provided by the European Commission to support biodiversity conservation projects in UK overseas territories in the last 12 months. [185352]

Meg Munn: Under the Ninth European Development Fund, the European Commission has provided €8 million for regional development projects. The United Kingdom's overseas territories secured funding for two bio-diversity/conservation projects:

> the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project was allocated €2 million and covers the Falkland Islands and St. Helena and its dependencies. In the past 12 months £150,000 has been spent on this project;
>
> the Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies project, was allocated €2.47 million for use in the Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands. I understand funds for the Caribbean project, have yet to flow.

The United Kingdom's overseas territories are also included in a project funded from the European Union's 6th Research Framework Programme entitled "Networking Tropical and Subtropical Bio-diversity Research in Outer Most Regions and Territories of Europe in Support of Sustainable Development". Total funding allocated to this project is €2,518,311, which is ongoing.

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries *(a)* in 2000-01 and *(b)* since 2005-06; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year since 2000-01 to the most recent date available; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180705]

Meg Munn: The bulk of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spend with Capita Group plc during this period related to recruitment and training purchased by the FCO's Human Resources Directorate (HRD). In answer to this question, costs and contract information for HRD are therefore shown separately from the rest of the FCO.

FCO spend with Capita Group plc

£

Financial year	*Human resources spend*	*Other FCO spend*
2000-2001	[1]n/a	[1]n/a
2001-2002	625,672	572,828
2005-2006	211,866	648,634
2006-2007	716,624	347,223

[1] Due to a changeover in the FCO's management information system, the amount paid to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries during 2000-01 is not available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

FCO contract values (pre 2003)

FCO contract values for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are set out in the following table as total FCO spend with Capita Group plc.

£

Financial year	*Spend*
2001-2002	1,198,500
2002-2003	763,300

Specific contract details are not available for this period and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Human resources FCO contract values (post 2003)

Financial year	*Contract details*	*Tender/advertising details*	*Cost (£)*
2003-04	Recruitment campaign for administrative and executive officer entrants	[1]n/a	29,500
	Recruitment campaign for specialist staff	[1]n/a	11,322
2004-05	Recruitment for specialist staff	[1]n/a	29,035
2005-06 and 2006-07	Time management for teams courses (for period 30 March 2005 to 18 September 2005)	Not advertised as below Official Journal of European Union threshold but competitive bid process carried out.	30,150
	Generalist recruitment (for period 12 July 2005 to 18 July 2006)	Contracts advertised on the Official Journal of European Union (ref Go 030923151/01 Dispatch of notice 23 September 2003)	304,610
	Specialist recruitment (for period 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006)	67 companies completed pre-qualification questionnaire with three shortlisted for Generalist and four for Specialist recruitment. Two formal bids received for Generalist and four for Specialist.	16,506

[1] Specific contract details for the periods 2003-04 and 2004-05 are not available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost

Actual spend in financial year 2006-07 exceeded the contract values shown in the table. This was the result of increased recruitment activity during that period and the extension of the contract.

Penalties for default are unenforceable in English law. Liquidated damages involving genuine pre-estimates of loss would be the preferred route to remuneration in the event of a contractor's failure incurring additional costs for the FCO. Liquidated damages were not included in the contracts listed.

The FCO awards all of its contracts on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, defined as the optimum combination of the whole life costs and benefits assessed against pre-determined evaluation award criteria which would be included in the Invitation to Tender.

Capita Group plc no longer holds the HR recruitment contract. We now use the services of Barkers under the HM Prison Service framework.

Non-human resources FCO contract values (post 2003)

Financial year	£ *Total value of contracts*
2003-04	565,100
2004-05	199,300
2005-06	648,634
2006-07	347,223

The main areas of financial commitment and expenditure (based on financial values of purchase orders), for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, excluding those contracted by HRD, are as follows:

Specialist recruitment campaigns (EU and globalisation directorates);

Eligibility checks (EU and globalisation/finance directorates);

British sign language interpreter for selection tests (finance directorate);

Provision and marking for written and administrative tests (FCO services).

A breakdown pre-2006 is not readily available and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

These figures also only cover contracts made in the UK and exclude any made by our Missions overseas. This information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent support his Department has offered to the government of Colombia in combating the smuggling of illegal drugs across the Colombia-Venezuela border. [185454]

Dr. Howells: Preventing the cross-border flow of illicit drugs from Colombia to neighbouring countries is a top priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK is investing in projects in Colombia and Venezuela to tackle the cross-border flow of illicit drugs. These projects have helped to build capacity amongst Colombian and Venezuelan law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. In addition, funding of a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime project on cross border co-operation has recently been approved.

We take a broad regional approach to tackling the trade in illicit drugs, through a mixture of political engagement, capacity building and law enforcement support in producer, transit and consumer countries. This includes working with Governments of other producer and transit countries in Latin America and countries along the main trafficking routes for drugs via the Caribbean and West Africa.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 791W, on the Committee of Permanent Representatives, how many personnel work in support of *(a)* the UK Deputy Permanent Representative in the Committee of Permanent Representatives I and *(b)* the UK Permanent Representative in the Committee of Permanent Representatives II. [179808]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK Permanent and Deputy Permanent Representatives are supported in their work in the Committee of Permanent Representatives by officials at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU.

A break down of total staff at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU between 2006-08 is as follows.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	59	40	37
FCO secondees	43	39	40
Other Government Departments	16	12	12
Locally engaged staff	53	52	55

Darfur: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* financial support the Government has given to the co-ordination of protection activities in Darfur in the last 12 months. [184252]

Meg Munn: The UK was instrumental in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1769 on 31 July 2007 mandating the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur which, since 31 December 2007, has been responsible for protecting civilians in Darfur. We fund the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur through our assessed contributions to the UN. We are in regular contact with the UN, the African Union, the Government of Sudan and potential troop contributing countries to press for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur to be an effective peacekeeping mission.

Previously the African Union mission in Sudan had been responsible for protection in Darfur and we committed £73 million in funding to this mission.

We are pressing the Government of Sudan to observe their obligations to protect their own citizens. We continue to make clear to the Government of Sudan and rebel movements in Darfur that we will press for tough measures against any party that obstructs progress towards peace. And we are closely monitoring the co-ordination of protection activities by the UN and other agencies in Darfur.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the government of Sudan on the implementation of its commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [184288]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the need to implement the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) when he met President Bashir of Sudan in Addis Ababa on 31 January, and the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, Sudanese Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior presidential advisers, Nafie Ali Nafie and Ghazi Salahuddin, when he was in Sudan from 28 to 31 January.

The UK has proposed a candidate to chair the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the international institution that assists the parties in resolving disputes in implementing the CPA.

Our embassy in Khartoum engages regularly with Sudanese officials to support the effective implementation of the CPA.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Civil Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to seek to ensure a free and fair trial for Pastor Fernando Kutino in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and if he will encourage the DRC Government to end the use of military tribunals in civilian cases. [184700]

Meg Munn: We have registered our concern at the conduct of the trial of Pastor Kutino with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on several occasions. We have encouraged the authorities to establish judicial independence and will continue to monitor the situation and urge that due process be observed.

We contribute almost one sixth to the cost of the EU Security Sector reform missions. These aim to deliver improvements in the DRC justice system. We will continue to work closely with international partners to ensure that support for reform of the justice sector is targeted and co-ordinated.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government plans to make to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo on its treatment of members of civil society in areas within its control, with particular reference to the military judge Major Mbokolo Wawa, his assistant Captain Kawende, and journalists Maurice Kayombo and Rene Kabala Mushiya. [184701]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the cases brought against judge Major Mbokolo Wasa, his assistant Captain Kawende, journalist Maurice Kayombo and Rene Kabala Mushiya. We are following their status carefully and are working in collaboration with partners to ensure they are treated fairly and in accordance with the law.

We continue to remind the Congolese Government in the strongest terms of its responsibilities to protect human rights, in particular to protect freedom of expression, including criticism of the government and the President, and to ensure the right to a free and fair trial.

Departmental Languages

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to increase the number of Pashtun speakers employed by his Department. [185244]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-53W, and the written answer he gave on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2312W to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague).

Pashto is one of our target languages at recruitment. We will provide language training in Dari and/or Pashto for staff going to Afghanistan wherever there is an operational requirement.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-3WS, on the new strategic framework (1) whether any other Government department will be affected by changes related to the planned reduction in his Department's resources in certain areas; and if he will make a statement; [178907]

(2) what changes in *(a)* resources allocated and *(b)* staff numbers are expected in each area which has been identified for a reduction in departmental resources; [178908]

(3) which areas have been identified for a reduction in departmental funding; what the reasons are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [178909]

David Miliband: The new strategic framework is intended to ensure that all Government Departments make most effective use of the FCO's global network. In respect of terrorism, conflict, climate change and international institutional reform we will be increasing FCO resources and working with a range of Government Departments—notably Home Office, DFID, MOD, HMT, DEFRA—to maximise the effectiveness of UK effort. In order to increase in some areas, we have to reduce resources in others. In the areas of sustainable development, science and innovation and drugs and crime—previously labelled as 'strategic priorities'—we will be discussing with DEFRA, DIUS, Home Office and OGDs and agencies how Government can best co-ordinate in London, and deliver and fund abroad, its international work. In respect of science, I am happy to confirm that FCO funding for the valuable Science and Innovation Network will remain at current levels for 2008-09 while these discussions continue.

Dubai: Money Laundering

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the government of Dubai to establish improved anti-money laundering capabilities to prevent Taliban funds being channelled through Dubai. [183210]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to discuss this issue with the Dubai authorities. The Financial Action Task Force President Sir James Sassoon visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 24 January 2008 to discuss money laundering and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Security and Counter-terrorism, Lord West of Spithead, discussed money laundering and terrorism finance issues during his visit in October 2007. He will be returning to the UAE in March to ratify the treaties on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance.

Prior to my noble Friend's visit I held talks with the financial authorities in the UAE on the subject of countering fraud and money laundering.

EU Budget

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the GNI own resources column in the summary of financing of the general budget by type of own resource and by member state table appended to the latest budget adopted by the European Communities. [183513]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The EC budget for 2008 is a publicly available document published by the European Commission which can be viewed at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/www/index-en.htm

Table 6 of the revenue section of this document contains the summary of financing referred to, including the GNI column. The 2008 EC budget was adopted in December 2007 and will in due course also be published in the L (Legislation) series of the Official Journal of the European Union.

EU Defence Policy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the level of co-operation between the UK and the EU on defence matters under the Treaty of Lisbon if ratified. [185133]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 February 2008]*: The UK pioneered and supports the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The treaty will not change the basic characteristics of ESDP. The commitment of UK troops for any EU led operation will continue to be on a voluntary basis and a decision for the Government alone. The requirement of unanimity for launching an ESDP mission is also maintained.

EU Energy Policy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the merits of a common European energy policy; and if he will make a statement. [185065]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 6 February 2008]*: With the EU's increasing reliance on imported energy and the internal market increasingly inter-linked, there is a clear need for a coherent EU energy policy. An effective energy policy will help ensure a balance between demand and supply and will help to drive the transition to a low carbon economy in the EU. EU leaders recognised the synergies between energy and climate change at the Spring European Council in March 2007 when they adopted the Energy Action Plan for Europe. The challenge now is to deliver that Action Plan by taking a common approach in our relations with key third country suppliers. The EU also needs to reach early agreement on further liberalisation of the internal energy market. This will serve to strengthen efforts to extend market principles to key third countries, and facilitate private investment in infrastructure in strategically important supplier and transit states.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I meet regularly with EU counterparts to discuss a range of issues, including European energy policy. The UK is currently working with EU partners to agree the Internal Energy Market package. The UK supports a diverse and liberalised energy policy to promote competition and ensure energy security across the EU.

EU High Representative (CFSP): Powers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the powers and responsibilities of the proposed EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be over *(a)* trade and *(b)* aid programmes; and if he will make a statement. [185101]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 February 2008]*: Subject to successful ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, as vice-president of the Commission charged 'within the Commission for responsibilities incumbent upon it in external relations' and for ensuring 'the consistency of the Union's external action' (amended Article 9E Treaty on European Union), the new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will have a role to play in trade and the European Union's aid programmes.

The way in which the High Representatives will interact with the Commission (currently charged with the management of both trade and development dossiers) and the specific division of responsibilities will be a matter for subsequent agreement.

EU Reform: Treaties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations on the Treaty of Lisbon he has received from *(a)* Action Aid, *(b)* the NSPCC, *(c)* One World Action and *(d)* Oxfam. [185099]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 February 2008]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) routinely engages with a range of external groups across the wide spectrum of EU issues. Among others, these groups include non-governmental organisations such as Action Aid, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, One World Action and Oxfam. All of these groups, either directly or through their umbrella organisations, have had contact with the FCO about the Treaty of Lisbon.

Gough Island: Biodiversity

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have to support biodiversity conservation on Gough Island over the next five years. [185404]

Meg Munn: The Government do not have specific plans to support biodiversity conservation on Gough Island over the next five years. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, has funded biodiversity projects on Gough Island in the past. These included a feasibility study into mice eradication and the eradication of Procumbent Pearlwort, an invasive plant. We will continue to consider future biodiversity project proposals on a case by case basis.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Kenyan Government on the situation of the Kikuyu population of the Kalenjin region. [184702]

Meg Munn: The Government condemns unreservedly all acts of violence in Kenya. We have repeatedly called for calm and for any grievances to be dealt with through the appropriate legal channels. It is important that all Kenya's leaders live up to their responsibilities and do all they can to end the violence immediately. We also call on them to come together in a process of dialogue to agree a way forward that respects the democratic will of the Kenyan people and puts Kenya back on the path to peace, stability and prosperity.

Serbia: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to meet the newly elected President of Serbia. [184538]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The final round of the Serbian presidential elections was held on 3 February 2008. Preliminary results indicate that Boris Tadic has been re-elected as President. We welcome this result. President Tadic has signalled his clear commitment to Serbia's European future and we look forward to working with him to realise this ambition as quickly as possible.

Simon Mann

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Equatorial Guinea on improving prison conditions for Simon Mann. [185515]

Meg Munn: In line with consular policy we are seeking urgent consular access to visit Mr. Mann in prison. We will consider what further action may be appropriate once we have spoken to Mr. Mann.

In seeking permission for a consular visit to Mr. Mann, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has underlined, to the Government of Equatorial Guinea, their obligations as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 10 of the Covenant states that all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for inherent dignity of the human person.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he proposes to take to ensure that Simon Mann does not face the death penalty in Equatorial Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [185520]

Meg Munn: We understand that the Government of Equatorial Guinea provided assurances to the Government of Zimbabwe that the death penalty would not be implemented should Simon Mann be extradited to Equatorial Guinea. The Attorney-General of Equatorial Guinea, Jose Ole Obono, publicly stated on 10 May 2007 that, 'the death penalty will not apply in this case'.

We are currently seeking urgent consular access to visit Mr. Mann in prison and have underlined to the Government of Equatorial Guinea their obligations to respect Mr. Mann's human rights during his detention.

The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and works closely with the EU to promote abolition of the death penalty around the world.

Sudan: Chad

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the outcome of the mini-summit in Libya on 27 January 2008 on relations between Sudan and Chad. [184137]

Meg Munn: We understand the purpose of the mini summit of seven African Heads of State hosted by the Libyan Leader Colonel Qadhafi in Tripoli on 27 January was to prepare for the African Union summit in Addis Ababa and consider the situation in Darfur and Chad.

We are monitoring the deterioration of security in the border region of Sudan and Chad, including the recent attacks by rebel groups from Darfur into Eastern Chad and the incursions of Chadian armed forces into Sudan.

In bilateral contacts with the Sudanese and Chadian governments, including during my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown's visit to Sudan from 28 to 30 January and to the African Union Summit of 31 January to 1 February, we have supported calls by the UN and African Union for both governments to stop supporting each other's rebels, fulfil their obligations under the 2006 Tripoli agreement and abide by the cease-fire agreed in Libya in October 2007.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek the agreement of the Government's international partners to convene an international conference on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [184783]

Meg Munn: Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) remains one of our highest priorities in Sudan. We continue to explore options with our international partners for convening a high-level international conference on CPA implementation, but have not yet agreed when and where such a conference should take place to best advance CPA implementation.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Sudan on the implementation of its commitments under the Abyei Protocol. [184289]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, have all pushed in their contacts with the Government of Sudan for progress on resolution of the dispute over Abyei in the broader context of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation. Our embassy in Khartoum has raised Abyei regularly in its contacts with the Government of Sudan.

Most recently, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown discussed Abyei with President Bashir, and Senior Sudanese Presidential advisers, Nafie Ali Nafie and Ghazi Salahuddin, during his visit to Sudan and Ethiopia from 28 January to 1 February.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the ratio of men to women within the police component of UNAMID for the tasks to be performed in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [184787]

Meg Munn: We have not yet assessed the ratio of men and women within the police component of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) because the police component of UNAMID is not up to full strength, nor have all the contributing countries been identified.

There are currently 1,400 civilian police in UNAMID who transferred from the police component of the African Union Mission in Sudan. Once fully deployed, the police component of UNAMID will total just under 6,500 officers.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Sudan against the formal appointment of Musa Hilal as an adviser to their Ministry of Federal Affairs. [184785]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised UK concerns over the appointment of Musa Hilal in meetings with representatives of the Government of Sudan during his visit to Sudan on 28-31 January. He made clear that the appointment was inappropriate as Musa Hilal is subject to UN sanctions. We also raised the issue of Musa Hilal's appointment at the UN Sanctions Committee on 1 February.

Darfur: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UNMIS in co-ordinating civilian protection in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [184251]

Meg Munn: We have not yet assessed the effectiveness of the co-ordination of civilian protection in Darfur following the assumption of peacekeeping authority by the African Union-UN hybrid mission (UNAMID) on 31 December, as many of the relevant structures and personnel are not yet in place. UNAMID is mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 to protect civilians, which it will carry out in co-ordination with other UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations.

Prior to 31 December 2007, UNMIS (the UN Mission in Sudan set up to support implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between North and South Sudan) contributed towards civilian protection in Darfur through information-gathering and sharing with the African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan and humanitarian agencies. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration also delivered civilian protection in Darfur.

Former UNMIS staff now work for UNAMID, which will include a civilian element of approximately 5,000 staff when fully established. UNAMID has appointed Humanitarian Affairs Officers to co-ordinate with the UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian organisations. We are monitoring this transition.

TRANSPORT

Air Routes: Felixstowe

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the number of planes flying over Felixstowe. [185035]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Airspace planning and regulation is the responsibility of the independent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Under the CAA's airspace change process, it is for airspace change sponsors to develop and consult upon proposals. It is then for the CAA to assess proposals against regulatory requirements and either approve or reject the proposal.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what maximum number of planes per day is permitted to use the flight corridors over the Felixstowe, Walton, Trimley, Kirton area and the Suffolk coast; [185033]

(2) how many commercial aeroplanes flew over Suffolk *(a)* in the last 12 months and *(b)* on each day of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [185041]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider. This information is not held centrally.

Air Routes: Urban Areas

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is taken of the effect on communities living under flight paths when taking decisions on the number of planes flying on those routes. [185034]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has issued guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the conduct of its environmental objectives in the performance of its air navigation duties. This guidance is reflected fully in the CAA' airspace change process which is published in CAP 724 and CAP 725. Under this process, proposers of airspace changes are required to consider the impact of changes to airspace arrangements on the areas which are over flown and to consult widely on the proposed changes. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, how they should be measured and on who should be consulted.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under the flight path arrangements for which her Department is responsible, what the estimated maximum number of aeroplanes is that may fly safely over Suffolk each day. [185451]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for NATS, the air navigation services provider. This information is not held centrally.

Airedale and Wharfedale Lines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 151-2, on Airedale and Wharfedale lines, when she expects Network Rail to set out its plans for additional capacity on the Airedale and Wharfedale lines. [185541]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 30 January 2008, The Secretary of State for Transport published a rolling stock plan, as set out in the White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway'. This plan sets out in more detail how the additional capacity committed in the period 2009-14 will be delivered. In relation to rail services into Leeds, it identifies the increase in demand that needs to be catered for and an indicative number of vehicles that will be provided within the northern franchise, to serve Leeds as well as other cities in the north of England.

The plan sets out the process that is being followed to determine the procurement of the additional vehicles but does not set out route specific details of numbers of rolling stock vehicles to be provided. This level of detail continues to be discussed with the rail industry and will take some time to finalise.

Alongside the rolling stock plan, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) continues to assess Network Rail's strategic business plan, which sets out the industry's view of how best to introduce the additional capacity required to be delivered. The ORR set out its initial assessment of the strategic business plan on 20 December 2007 and expects to provide greater detail on its analysis of the plan in February 2008.

Airports: Baggage

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will publish the guidance issued to airports on the collection and disposal of goods taken from the hand luggage of passengers by airport security officials; and on what date such guidance was issued; [184534]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the disposal of goods taken from the hand luggage of passengers by airport security officials; and when this policy was put in place; [184535]

(3) what estimate has been made of the volume of *(a)* liquid, *(b)* glass and *(c)* plastic that has been taken from the hand luggage of passengers by airport security officials since August 2006; [184536]

(4) what estimate has been made of the cost of collection and disposal of goods taken from the hand luggage of passengers by airport security officials since August 2006; [184537]

(5) what estimate has been made of the volume of materials taken from the hand luggage of passengers by airport security officials since August 2006 that have been *(a)* recycled, *(b)* disposed of in landfill sites and *(c)* given to charity shops. [184568]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Aviation Security Programme places a requirement on airport operators to ensure that passengers are prevented from taking prohibited articles on to aircraft departing UK airports. The Government's role is to ensure compliance with this approach. The Government do not record any information on the disposal of items which are confiscated under this policy.

Aviation: Mental Health

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mental health checks are required for commercial airline pilots of airlines based in the UK. [184583]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Commercial airline pilots flying for airlines based in the United Kingdom are required to hold a Joint Aviation Authority (JAA) Class 1 Medical Certificate which is assessed in accordance with Joint Aviation Requirements—Flight Crew Licensing (JAR-FCL) Part 3 Medical. Certificates are issued to pilots following satisfactory medical examinations, performed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approved Aeromedical Examiners, and have varying validity dates according to the pilot's age. The maximum period of validity is one year.

The JAA requirements state

> "a holder of a Class 1 medical certificate shall have no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of any psychiatric disease or disability, condition or disorder, acute or chronic, congenital or acquired, which is likely to interfere with the safe exercise of the privileges of the applicable licence(s)."

Aviation: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the use of air marshals on flights operating out of Heathrow and Gatwick and flying to the United States. [183640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All aviation security measures are kept under active review. For security reasons, it would be inappropriate to comment on the specific arrangements which have been put in place, or on any assessment of them.

Bus Services

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many meetings were held between her Department's officials and representatives of bus operating companies on the Local Transport Bill between May 2007 and 16 January 2008; and which company or companies attended each meeting; [184109]

(2) how many meetings have been held between her Department's officials and the Confederation of Passenger Transport on the Local Transport Bill between May 2007 and 16 January 2008; [184111]

(3) how many meetings have been held between Ministers and special advisers from her Department and representatives of bus operating companies by company on the Local Transport Bill between May 2007 and 16 January 2008; and which company or companies attended each meeting; [184112]

(4) how many meetings have been held between Ministers and special advisers from her Department and the Confederation of Passenger Transport on the Local Transport Bill between May 2007 and 16 January 2008. [184113]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 February 2008]:* As part of the process of consultation on the Local Transport Bill, both before and since introduction, Ministers, special advisers and officials have held a number of meetings with stakeholders, individually or collectively, including representatives of the bus industry.

Bus Services: Standards

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to penalise bus operators who consistently fail to deliver a clean and punctual service; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of this system; and what further measures have been considered to hold such operators to account. [183329]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Traffic Commissioners currently have powers to penalise bus operators who fail to operate local services in accordance with their registered timetables. Under section 155 of the Transport Act 2000 they can impose a penalty of up to £550 multiplied by the total number of vehicles which the operator is licensed to use. The Traffic Commissioners can also attach conditions to operators' licences.

The performance regime was looked at closely as part of the review of buses leading up the Local Transport Bill. As part of this a new regime is being developed which will ensure that the Traffic Commissioners receive better quality punctuality data and for the first time hold local authorities as well as operators to account.

We are also giving Traffic Commissioners new powers in the Local Transport Bill where services are not operated punctually. They will be able to require operators to invest in improvements to local services or to compensate passengers, which could be for example in the form of monetary payments or free or reduced price travel.

Local authorities have a role to play in driving up quality standards such as the level of cleanliness. Quality partnership schemes may make provision for a standard of cleanliness to be complied with, as the North Sheffield scheme does. Also voluntary partnership agreements between bus operators and local authorities often make provisions of this kind. The Local Transport Bill includes measures intended to promote more partnership schemes and agreements that will be of benefit to bus passengers.

The Local Transport Bill will also make the option of quality contracts schemes a more realistic one for those local authorities who are able to meet the criteria. Where such a scheme is in force, the local authority, rather than the Traffic Commissioner, would be responsible for ensuring that contracted bus operators comply with standards of punctuality, cleanliness and other matters specified in the contract.

We are currently consulting on options to bolster the voice of bus passengers. The consultation paper—'Options for strengthening bus passenger representation' asks for comments on how we can champion improvement in bus services, work with stakeholders to ensure that the passengers' voice is heard when key decisions are being made and make suggestions about the future direction on bus provision. The consultation closes on 17 March.

Cars: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy that the maximum limit in 2020 for car emissions should be 100 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre. [181974]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither we nor the European Commission have any plans to set a limit per car. We believe that 100 g/km as an average for new cars in the EU should be achievable by 2020 (or 2025 at the latest). We are urging the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council to seek consensus on this as soon as possible.

Concessionary Bus Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 28 January, *Official Report*, column 42W, on concessionary bus travel, how much local authorities contributed to the scheme in each year since 2005, broken down by local authority area. [184931]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* To date, funding for statutory minimum bus concession travel has been allocated through the formula grant process (RSG). Authorities are free to use their own funding, in addition to this, to offer discretionary concessions over and above the statutory minimum. It is not possible to disaggregate how much funding local authorities contributed to their schemes since concessionary fares funding is not separately identified in formula grant and figures on concessionary fares spending do not distinguish between the statutory minimum concession and local enhancements. The amount local authorities actually spent on concessionary travel including any local enhancements, since 2005, is shown in the table which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freedom of information requests her Department received in each year since 2005; and how many of those requests have been refused. [183798]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have published two annual reports that contain statistical information about how many requests have been received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) and how many have been refused.

These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm.

Data are currently being collected across monitored bodies in order to produce the 2007 annual report and Q4 monitoring report. However, Q1 to Q3 monitoring reports of 2007 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many external contracts her Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183199]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure from the 2002-03 fiscal year when the Department was formed, which includes the cost of PR promotions in various media, is outlined as follows.

The Department's prime use of external public relations is in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety, Act on CO_2, and the Concessionary Bus Fares campaigns. The rise in spend for 2006-07 follows the appointment of an agency to help in extending Act on CO_2 campaign messages. The further increase in spend for 2007-08 reflects the inclusion of the Concessionary Bus Fares campaign and the European Whole Vehicle Type Approval campaign. DVLA's spend is primarily in support of the Continuous Registration (vehicle tax) campaign.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 (expected outturn)*
Central DfT						
Number PR agencies	n/a	2	2	1	2	4
Total cost (£)	n/a	214,000	253,000	255,000	362,000	625,000
DSA						
Number PR agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost (£)	0	0	0	0	0	0
DVLA						
Number PR agencies	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total cost (£)	84,000	59,000	49,000	604,000	234,000	48,000
HA						
Number PR agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost (£)	0	0	0	0	0	0
VOSA						
Number PR agencies	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total cost (£)	0	0	0	0	26,000	27,000
MCA						
Number PR agencies	0	2	1	1	1	1
Total cost (£)	0	60,000	51,000	73,000	79,000	55,000
VCA						
Number PR agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost (£)	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCDA						
Number PR agencies	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Total cost (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0

Breaking down the costs of external public relations contracts prior to 2002-03 fiscal year could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on travel *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of her Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies account and record their expenditure in different ways, with differing degrees of detail. To provide the information at the level of detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department travelled by (i) car, (ii) rail and (iii) air on Government business in each year since 1997. [181916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not record centrally the number of miles Ministers and officials travel while on Government business.

In financial year 2005-06 the Department performed a one-off exercise to track the combined number of miles travelled by Ministers and officials during the year. The totals were as follows:

Miles travelled

	Number
Road	3,786,021
Rail	3,328,585
Air	5,641,508

The mileage does not differentiate between Ministers and officials and does not include DSA, DVLA, GCDA, HA, VGA and VOSA.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many overseas visits by officials in her Department took place in each of the last 10 years; which countries were visited; and how much was spent on such visits in each such year. [181594]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information regarding ministerial travel is published annually by the Government and can be found in the Libraries of the House and can also be accessed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

The publication dates back to financial year 1997-98 and lists all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if she will make a statement. [183882]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not purchase food or drink centrally.

At our main London HQ building fair trade goods are available for purchase in the staff restaurant and only fair trade teas and coffees are served at official meetings.

All procurement within the Department is undertaken in line with the EU's procurement rules and to obtain value for money.

Ferries: Licensing

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review the qualifying service time of 120 days minimum for candidates working on ferries in Category C waters as set out in the new National Boatmasters' Licence (Merchant Shipping Notice 1808); and what steps is she taking to help Category C ferry operators who operate on a part-time seasonal basis to recruit boatmasters who can satisfy the new service time requirements. [185363]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are reviewing the provisions of the regulations that implement the Boatmasters' Licence. This review will take account of the circumstances in which many small and seasonal operators on limited tidal waters—including Category C waters—operate. Any proposed changes will be subject to consultation with those affected.

Heathrow Airport: Archaeology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the 16 undesignated sites of archaeological importance identified as at risk of substantial disturbance referred to in Annex B, paragraph 2.31, of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [179435]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* A map has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing the location of the undesignated sites of archaeological importance referred to in Annex B, paragraph 2.31 of the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document. The sites referred to are those on the map wholly or partly within the hatched area, which indicates the illustrative Heathrow airport boundary with a third runway, as proposed by BAA for consideration in the consultation document.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to answer question 179435 tabled by the hon. Member for Putney on 11 January 2008 for named day answer on 16 January 2008, on archaeological sites and proposals contained in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [185378]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I replied to the hon. Member's earlier question today.

Heathrow Airport: Nature Conservation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to answer question 179436 tabled by the hon. Member for Putney on 11 January 2008 for named day answer on 16 January 2008, on sites of significant importance for nature conservation and the proposals contained in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [185379]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The hon. Member received a reply on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1155W.

Lorries: Accidents

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving heavy goods vehicles were reported to the police in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and of these how many involved foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles. [185499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving (i) at least one heavy goods vehicle and (ii) at least one foreign registered heavy goods vehicle in Great Britain in 2002 to 2006 is shown in the table.

Number of accidents

	Involving at least one HGV[1]	*Involving at least one foreign registered HGV*[1]
2002	12,427	[2]—
2003	12,205	[2]—
2004	11,542	[2]—
2005	11,162	1,098
2006	10,466	1,041

[1] Heavy goods vehicle

[2] Data not available

This information is published in the Department's annual publication 'Road Casualties Great Britain', available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

Data are not available for foreign registered vehicles prior to 2005.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of an accident involving a foreign heavy goods vehicle in each of the last five years; and how many of these injuries have been attributed by the police to the existence of a blind-spot in the off-side mirror. [185554]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of casualties who have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured resulting from a reported personal injury road accident involving at least one foreign registered HGV in GB in 2005 to 2006 is shown in the table.

	Number of casualties	
	Killed	*Injured*[1]
2005	33	1,507
2006	44	1,322

[1] Serious or slight.

Data are not available on foreign registered vehicles prior to 2005. This information is available in table 53 of the Department's annual publication 'Road Casualties Great Britain' at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

The number of injuries that have been attributed by the police to the existence of a blind-spot in the off-side mirror is not available.

Lorries: Foreign Companies

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of heavy goods vehicles on roads in England which were registered abroad in each of the last three years; and what proportion of heavy goods vehicles on roads in England this represented in each year. [185498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Standards

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to complete its review of oral examinations in the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping system. [185706]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has sent a survey to stakeholders and candidates about its review of the oral examinations in the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping system.

Responses are due by 31 March 2008 and the MCA hopes to complete the review in the summer.

National Security Strategy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role her Department has played in drafting the National Security Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [184203]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is working closely with the Cabinet Office and other interested Departments and agencies to produce the National Security Strategy.

Railway Stations: Disabled

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of levels of compliance with disability access requirements of railway stations in Worcestershire; and when such stations which do not comply with the requirements will be modified to conform with them. [185248]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not assess the compliance of railway stations with Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Station operators are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people do not find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to access their services. Operators are responding to these duties, but where a disabled person believes that they have been discriminated against contrary to Part 3 they can bring a claim against the operator.

In addition, Worcester Shrub Hill and Kidderminster have been included in the main access for all programme and Alvechurch, Barnt Green and Evesham have been offered funding from the programme for smaller scale access improvements.

Railways: Subsidies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what subsidy from the public purse was received for each rail franchise since 1997. [184883]

Mr. Tom Harris: Prior to 2005-06 this information was published by the Strategic Rail Authority in their annual report and accounts. Since then the data have been published annually in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28th January 2008, Official Report, column 48W, on roads: accidents, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of road deaths in those areas where road death rates have risen in the last 10 years. [184940]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 6 February 2008]:* The Government's Road Safety Strategy sets out what we are doing to tackle road deaths (and casualties generally) across a range of domains. The latest update of the strategy is in 'Tomorrow's roads: safer for everyone: The second three year review' which can be found on our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategytargetsperformance/2ndreview/screen .

In terms of geographical areas where road deaths have risen, it is the responsibility of the local safety partnerships to address the problem. However the Government do provide funding for this work, and indeed in 2007 we provided an additional £110 million funding for road safety work, which was allocated to local authority areas in proportion to the number of deaths and serious injuries.

The Government monitor national and local trends in deaths and serious injuries. The new road safety delivery board will bring together partners from the agencies that deliver road safety, to ensure that best practice is spread and obstacles to delivery are tackled effectively, especially where casualties are high.

Roads: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the level of *(a)* traffic, *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(c)* accidents were on the equivalent stretches of road (i) in the 12 months before construction and (ii) in the latest 12 months for which figures are available in respect of each Highways Agency scheme completed since 1997. [183665]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Highways Agency is currently undertaking an exercise to provide a table detailing the changes in the following for each scheme in the programme of major schemes:

Annual average daily total traffic—predicted and observed (one year after opening);

Carbon dioxide emissions—predicted and observed (opening year);

Personal injury accidents—predicted and observed (five years after opening).

These data will be produced in accordance with the Department's New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) and Post Opening Project Evaluation (POPE) methodologies. The carbon emissions will be calculated in line with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges environmental assessment guidance.

This exercise is due to completed by the end of March 2008 following which the information will be published on the Agency's website and placed in the Libraries of the House.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 18-20WS, on rolling stock, what the timetable is for *(a)* production and *(b)* the allocation to the train operating companies of the additional units; and if she will ensure that the introduction of new rolling stock improves passenger comfort, with particular reference to the Portsmouth Mainline Express service using Desiro 440 units; and if she will make a statement. [185012]

Mr. Tom Harris: The timing of the introduction of the new rolling stock is one of the issues that will be agreed with the train operating companies (including South West Trains) and Network Rail.

New rolling stock brings additional capacity and comfort to address the growing demand on Britain's railways.

Sea Rescue: Iceland

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with her counterpart in Iceland to improve bi-lateral coastguard co-operation. [183326]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is actively working with their counter parts in Iceland to improve coastguard co-operation in the North Atlantic. The Icelandic Minister with responsibility for the Icelandic Coast Guard is visiting Dover Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in February as part of this process.

Tolls: Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* sign designs and *(b)* broad principles of sign location for the Central London congestion charging scheme have been agreed between her Department and Transport for London; [184955]

(2) what designs of sign relating to the Central London congestion charging scheme have been authorised under sections 64 and 65 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; and when such authorisations were granted. [184956]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has authorised the design of 28 traffic signs and road markings for the Central London congestion charging scheme under sections 64 and 65 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. These designs have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The following table shows when these authorisations were provided:

Traffic signs (numbers)	*Date authorised*
1-18	7 August 2002
19-21	29 November 2002
22	6 January 2005
23	14 November 2005
24-28	1 November 2006

In addition, the Department authorised:

(i) the use of sign number 6 (from above table) with the motorway telephone symbol (Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions diagram 2713.1) (15 January 2003);

(ii) the legend, "avoiding charge", to be placed on advanced direction signs (9 May 2005).

There are no drawings for these signs.

The authorisations provided to Transport for London require that the relevant traffic signs be placed on or near roads entering and exiting the scheme; that advanced signs are placed on the main routes in surrounding counties and at 2½miles and ½mile from the boundary; and that repeater signs can be placed within the scheme.

Trains: Taunton

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train carriages were used by each train operating company for trains stopping at Taunton in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 1997. [178992]

Mr. Tom Harris: Franchised train operators serving Taunton in 2007 were Cross Country (Virgin Trains) and First Great Western (FGW). Most Cross Country trains stopping at Taunton were formed of either four or five carriages and most FGW trains of between one and eight. The position would have been broadly similar after March 2006. The Department does not hold comparable figures for 1997.

JUSTICE

Bail

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent guidance on bail. [184625]

Maria Eagle: The most recent guidance relating to bail is Probation Circular 33/2007—New Accommodation And Support Service For Bail and Home Detention Curfew. A copy has been placed in the Library.

It is not for Government to provide guidance to the courts on issues which touch on judicial discretion. Training is provided by the independent Judicial Studies Board, however as the decisions on bail are judicial matters, guidance on how to implement bail is provided in the form of decision of superior courts and The Practice Directions of the Lord Chief Justice.

Circumcisions: Females

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average sentence was handed down for a person found to have been carrying out female circumcision in each of the last five years. [184845]

Maria Eagle: There were no sentences handed down for the offence of female genital mutilation in the last five years for which annual published sentencing statistics are available.

Figures for 2007 will be available from autumn 2008.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182985]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice came into existence on 9 May 2007. Since then it has spent £1.5 million on advertising, representing 0.02 per cent. of its total budget of £9.16 billion for 2007-08.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each asset is; what the expected revenue from each sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164155]

Bridget Prentice: The table details the asset description and the book value of each asset that the Ministry of Justice has disposed or plans to dispose of from 2007-08 to 2010-11. The expected revenue is detailed as an annual figure due to the commercial sensitivities attached to the expected revenue of each individual asset.

We are developing our asset management strategy and a property asset management plan to improve our use of property assets and achieve a better fit with our service delivery model. Those properties that represent poor value, do not fit the business or service delivery model, or are surplus to requirement will be reviewed with a view to disposal and re-use of any receipt to provide facilities that are more efficient and better located. Current disposal plans include the phasing out of quarters previously used to house prison staff and some rationalisation where we have courts or tribunals in the same vicinity. Local consultation is required before closure of courts where this would remove the facility from a town.

Ministry of Justice planned disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Book value (£000)*
2007-08	
Land and Building, Wellingborough	—
Land and Building, Grendon	145.00
Land and Building, Parkhurst	125.00
Land and Building, Rochester	165.00
Land and Building, Kingston	200.00
Land and Building, Feltham	215.00
Land and Building, Longlartin	—
Land and Building, Reading	195.00
Land and Building, Ashwell	110.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	395.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	360.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	350.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	335.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	365.00
Land and Building, The Mount	245.00
Land and Building, The Mount	265.00
Land and Building, Styal	320.00
Land and Building, Longlartin	—
Land and Building, Birmingham	155.00
Land and Building, Eastwood Park	185.00
Land and Building, Dover	115.00
Land and Building, Pentonville	400.00
Land and Building, Erlestoke	160.00
Land and Building, Pentonville	495.00
Land and Building, Wandsworth	615.00
Land and Building, Feltham	185.00
Land and Building, Coldingley	240.00
Land and Building, Brixton	180.00
Land and Building, Brixton	150.00
Land and Building, Brixton	140.00
Land and Building, Gartree	—
Land and Building, Blaenau Gwent	—

Ministry of Justice planned disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Book value (£000)*
Land and Building, Flax Bourton	—
Land and Building, Blackwood	—
Land and Building, Newtown	—
Land, Aldington	—
Land, Onley	—
Land, Fetherstone	—
Land, Stocken	—
Land, Tudworth	—
Land, Rochester	—
Land, Wandsworth	—
Land, Frankley Farm	250.00
Land, Standford Hill	295.00
Received revenue for 2007-08	9,884
2007-08	
Land and Building, Reading	198.00
Land and Building, Gartree	165.00
Land and Building, Dartmoor	88.00
Land and Building, Liverpool	150.00
Land and Building, Lindholme	100.00
Land and Building, Hindley	—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	335.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	360.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	340.00
Land and Building, Highpoint	—
Land and Building, Highpoint	125.00
Land and Building, Haverigg	—
Land and Building, Chelmsford	235.00
Land and Building, Wayland	—
Land and Building, Norwich	165.00
Land and Building, Leeds	220.00
Land and Building, Winchester	260.00
Land and Building, Onley	130.00
Land and Building, Brixton	250.00
Land and Building, Highdown	390.00
Land and Building, Feltham	225.00
Land and Building, Feltham	230.00
Land and Building, Pentonville	255.00
Land and Building, Brixton	265.00
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land and Building, Brixton	—
Land, Stocken	—
Land and Building, Barnet	988.00
Land and Building, Barnet	1,149.00
Land and Building, Bristol	10,676.00
Land and Building, Cheltenham	708.00
Land and Building, Epsom	1,496.00
Land and Building, Epsom	1,003.00
Land and Building, Gravesend	297.00
Land and Building, Manchester	2,096.00
Land and Building, Salisbury	1,399.00
Land and Building, London	10,042.00
Land and Building, Maidstone	1,340.00
Land and building, Sleaford	718.00
Land and Building, Bedford	—
Land and Building, New Mills	100.00
Land, The Mount	—
Land, Wayland	—
Land, Hewell Grange	—
Land, Shrewsbury	—
Land, Exeter	—
Land, Leyhill	1,325.00
Land, Cannock	—
Land, Channings Wood	—
Land, Channings Wood	—
Land, Portland	—
Land, Huntercombe	—
Land, Full Sutton	—
Land, Full Sutton	—
Land, Camphill	—
Land, Ranby	—
Land, Aylesbury	—
Land, Aylesbury	—
Land, Onley	—
Land, Parkhurst	—
Land, Onley	—
Land, Birmingham	—
Land, Coldingley	—
Land, Send	—
Land, Sudbury	—
Land, Gringley	—
Land, London	1,025.00
Expected revenue for 2007-08[1]	63,373
2008-09	
Land and Building, Chelmsford	265.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	420.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	215.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	215.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	215.00
Land and Building, Pentonville	500.00
Land and Building, Pentonville	2,275.00
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	—
Land and Building, Durham	3,330.00
Land and Building, Land Sales	—
Land and Building, Stoke Heath	—
Land and Building, Everthorpe	—
Land and Building, Everthorpe	—
Land and Building, Standford Hill	—
Land and Building, Guys Marsh	—
Land and Building, Eastwood Park	—
Land and Building, Erlestoke	—
Land and Building, Rochester	—
Land and Building, Fetherstone	—
Land and Building, Usk	—
Land and Building, Lindholme	1,000.00
Land and Building, Stocken	—
Land and Building, Deerbolt	—
Land and Building, Shrewsbury	—
Expected revenue for 2008-09	11,322
2009-10	
Land, Warrington	—
Land, Huntercombe	—
Land, Lowdham Grange	—
Land and Building, Edinburgh	613.00
Land and Building, Edinburgh	1,276.00
Land and Building, Sheffield	688.00
Expected revenue for 2009-10	4,745
2010-11	
Land, Littlehey	—

Ministry of Justice planned disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Book value (£000)*
Land, Littlehey	
Expected revenue for 2010-11	430

[1] One surplus property in Bedford, with [illegible] asset value of £101,000 is to be leased.

Note:

Not all the entries include book values. Where we are selling land and that land is only part of a single asset e.g. a parcel of land that forms only a small part of a farm, the land being sold will not have an independent asset identity or value. When sold we will offset some value against the main asset for accounting purposes. If we retain land to be sold, for whatever reason, longer than a year, it will go on our surplus schedule and will be valued at market value whereupon it will take on an asset identity of its own.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181817]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is currently developing a strategy that will enable the office estate to achieve and maintain a carbon neutral status by 2012. To increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions in 2008-09 the Department is focusing its efforts on efficient operations and maintenance of the existing estate, while working towards a mandatory energy efficiency standard for new builds and refurbishment as part of Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).

In addition, energy awareness will be high on the agenda with campaigns throughout the estate and the Department will work with the Carbon Trust in prisons and courts.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [180573]

Maria Eagle: The DISC contracts provide operational IT systems for the Ministry of Justice headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service and some areas of the Tribunals Service. These contracts support a portfolio of business change activities which are aimed at improving services to our customers and making them more efficient. The contracts were awarded in 2006 for seven years and their estimated total value is £500 million.

The Department also has a programme of IT enabled business change aimed at delivering improvements across the criminal justice system (CJS) and National Offender Management Services (NOMS). The estimated costs for the programme across the CJS until March 2009 is £64 million. The investment programme for NOMS until 2010-11 is £447 million.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181361]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not hold a comprehensive record for this information. Those records which are held show that personal digital assistants have been issued to *(a)* 53 male members of staff and *(b)* 16 female members of staff.

Departmental Land

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168855]

Maria Eagle: Those properties that represent poor value, do not fit the business or service delivery model, or are surplus to requirement will be reviewed with a view to disposal and re-use of any receipt to provide facilities that are more efficient and better located.

The table lists the properties that the Ministry of Justice has sold in 2007-08 or is in the course of selling, and those we plan to dispose of from 2008-09 to 2010-11. There are plans to grant a lease on one property in Bedford with an area of 6,900 square metres.

Current disposal plans include the phasing out of quarters previously used to house prison staff and some rationalisation where we have courts or tribunals in the same vicinity. Local consultation is required before closure of courts where this would remove the facility from a town.

Ministry of Justice planned property disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Size (sq m)*
Already sold 2007-08	
Land and Building, Wellingborough	[1]—
Land and Building, Grendon	[1]—
Land and Building, Parkhurst	[1]—
Land and Building, Rochester	[1]—
Land and Building, Kingston	[1]—
Land and Building, Feltham	[1]—
Land and Building, Longlartin	[1]—
Land and Building, Reading	[1]—
Land and Building, Ashwell	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, The Mount	[1]—
Land and Building, The Mount	[1]—
Land and Building, Styal	[1]—
Land and Building, Longlartin	[1]—
Land and Building, Birmingham	[1]—
Land and Building, Eastwood Park	[1]—
Land and Building, Dover	[1]—
Land and Building, Pentonville	[1]—
Land and Building, Erlestoke	[1]—
Land and Building, Pentonville	[1]—
Land and Building, Wandsworth	[1]—
Land and Building, Feltham	[1]—
Land and Building, Coldingley	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—

Ministry of Justice planned property disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Size (sq. m)*
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Gartree	[1]—
Land and Building, Blaneau Gwent	[1]—
Land and Building, Flax Bourton	[1]—
Land and Building, Blackwood	[1]—
Land and Building, Newtown	[1]—
Land, Aldington	[2]—
Land, Onley	[2]—
Land, Fetherstone	[2]—
Land, Stocken	[2]—
Land, Tudworth	[2]—
Land, Rochester	[2]—
Land, Wandsworth	[2]—
Land, Frankley Farm	[2]—
Land, Standford Hill	[2]—
Being marketed/expected disposal 2007-08	
Land and Building, Reading	[1]—
Land and Building, Gartree	[1]—
Land and Building, Dartmoor	[1]—
Land and Building, Liverpool	[1]—
Land and Building, Lindholme	[1]—
Land and Building, Hindley	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Highpoint	[1]—
Land and Building, Highpoint	[1]—
Land and Building, Haverigg	[1]—
Land and Building, Chelmsford	[1]—
Land and Building, Wayland	[1]—
Land and Building, Norwich	[1]—
Land and Building, Leeds	[1]—
Land and Building, Winchester	[1]—
Land and Building, Onley	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Highdown	[1]—
Land and Building, Feltham	[1]—
Land and Building, Feltham	[1]—
Land and Building, Pentonville	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land and Building, Brixton	[1]—
Land, Stocken	[2]—
Land and Building, Barnet	696
Land and Building, Barnet	562
Land and Building, Bristol	1,800
Land and Building, Cheltenham	460
Land and Building, Epsom	1,270
Land and Building, Epsom	1,380
Land and Building, Gravesend	606
Land and Building, Manchester	1,088
Land and Building, Salisbury	2,300
Land and Building, London	13,304
Land and Building, Maidstone	52,500
Land and Buildings, Sleaford	430
Land and Buildings, Bedford	500
Land and Buildings, New Mills	1,320
Land, The Mount	[2]—
Land, Wayland	[2]—
Land, Hewell Grange	[2]—
Land, Shrewsbury	[2]—
Land, Exeter	[2]—
Land, Leyhill	[2]—
Land, Cannock	[2]—
Land, Channings Wood	[2]—
Land, Channings Wood	[2]—
Land, Portland	[2]—
Land, Huntercombe	[2]—
Land, Full Sutton	[2]—
Land, Full Sutton	[2]—
Land, Camphill	[2]—
Land, Ranby	[2]—
Land, Aylesbury	[2]—
Land, Aylesbury	[2]—
Land, Onley	[2]—
Land, Parkhurst	[2]—
Land, Onley	[2]—
Land, Birmingham	[2]—
Land, Coldingley	[2]—
Land, Send	[2]—
Land, Sudbury	[2]—
Land, Gringley	[2]—
Land, London	[2]—
2008-09	
Land and Building, Chelmsford	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Pentonville	[1]—
Land and Building, Pentonville	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Wormwood Scrubs	[1]—
Land and Building, Durham	[1]—
Land and Building, Land sales	[1]—
Land and Building, Stoke Heath	[1]—
Land and Building, Everthorpe	[1]—
Land and Building, Everthorpe	[1]—
Land and Building, Standford Hill	[1]—
Land and Building, Guys Marsh	[1]—
Land and Building, Eastwood Park	[1]—
Land and Building, Erlestoke	[1]—
Land and Building, Rochester	[1]—
Land and Building, Fetherstone	[1]—
Land and Building, Usk	[1]—
Land and Building, Lindholme	[1]—
Land and Building, Stocken	[1]—
Land and Building, Deerbolt	[1]—
Land and Building, Shrewsbury	[1]—
Planned disposals for 2009-10	
Land, Warrington	[2]—
Land, Huntercombe	[2]—
Land, Lowdham Grange	[2]—
Land and Building, Edinburgh	—
Land and Building, Edinburgh	—
Land and Building, Sheffield	—

Ministry of Justice planned property disposals 2007-08 to 2010-11

Asset description	*Size (sq. m)*
Planned disposals for 2010-11	
Land, Littlehey	2
Land, Littlehey	2

[1] Many of the sites are former staff quarters involving residential property or garages and size details are not available.

[2] Other sites identified as land include farm land or plots without buildings, often adjacent to prisons.

Note:

Not all the entries include book values. Where we are selling land and that land is only part of a single asset e.g. a parcel of land that forms only a small part of a farm, the land being sold will not have an independent asset identity or value. When sold we will offset some value against the main asset for accounting purposes. If we retain land to be sold, for whatever reason, longer than year, it will go on our surplus schedule and will be valued at Market Value whereupon it will take on an asset identity of its own.

Site size is included where known.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174405]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recycling scheme is in operation in each building within his Department. [176672]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is currently implementing its waste management strategy, which clearly sets out the policy and fully demonstrates how recycling is to be performed across the estate.

MoJ Headquarters

Recycling facilities have increased within all MoJ Headquarters sites in recent months. Bins are placed on all floors at all sites across the MoJ HQ Estate for the following items—white paper, mixed paper and cardboard, plastic bottles and cans, and glass bottles. The following materials are now recycled through designated contractors across the HQ Estate—white paper, coloured paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminium cans, glass, batteries, toner bottles, toner cartridges, disposable coffee cups and other ad-hoc materials, such as IT equipment and office furniture.

In addition all local management and facilities managers are encouraged to operate effective recycling schemes on site.

Delivery agencies of MoJ (incl. NOMS, HMPS, HMCS and Tribunals):

Her Majesty's Court Service

Following a full waste management review of the estate, HMCS have implemented a waste management reporting action plan within regions across the estate. The aim of the action plan is to create a system which enables full legal compliance, works towards long term savings and allows HMCS to meet the waste minimisation and recycling targets in Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate.

Tribunals Service

The Tribunals Service is committed to recycling and is currently implementing the Ministry of Justice waste management strategy, with the aim of achieving and maintaining a standard of best waste management practice.

Her Majesty's Prison Service/National Offender Management Service

To date, 80 prisons have an operational waste management unit, separating out materials for re-use, recycling, composting and, for the residue, responsible disposal. 54 prisons completed performance monitoring returns for the first half of this financial year (2007-08), reporting a total of 7,403 tonnes of controlled waste generated, with 2,948 tonnes being diverted away from disposal for re-use, composting or recycling. An average recycling rate of 40 per cent. was achieved, exceeding the Prison Service target to reuse, recycle or recover 35 per cent. of waste generated by 31 March 2007.

More detailed information on the development and performance of waste management activities at public sector managed prisons is included within the HM Prison Service Sustainable Development Report, which is issued annually and can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Domestic Violence: Sentencing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of those convicted of domestic violence offences were *(a)* fined and *(b)* given custodial sentences in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [184757]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to identify separately domestic violence offences on the Court Proceedings Database as the circumstances of offences are not collected centrally.

E-Conveyancing Pilot

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* review of the e-conveyancing pilot. [184635]

Mr. Wills: The implementation plan for the electronic conveyancing programme is constantly reviewed and updated to ensure that each new service and product is fully tested and evaluated and that customer feedback is taken on board. The latest revision of Land Registry's business case for the programme estimates that the programme of work will be fully implemented in 2014-15.

There will not be a single electronic conveyancing pilot: rather there will be a series of pilots designed to test the performance of individual services, which will, in time, comprise a larger e-conveyancing service.

Electoral Register

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of registered electors in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales opted to be excluded from the edited electoral roll in each year since 2002. [184751]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures on the number of registered electors who opt to be excluded from the edited electoral register. However, the Office for National Statistics will, for the first time, be collecting this information based on the published electoral register of December 2007. I understand that this information will be placed in the House of Commons Library after 28 February.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183852]

Maria Eagle: Catering services to meet my Department's requirements are contracted out and provided by commercial suppliers.

Within the objective of achieving best value, we continue to ensure that our suppliers are actively encouraged to support and make use of fair trade produce.

My Department will continue to do all it can to promote fair trade through its contracting activities.

Fatal Accident Injury System

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 906W, on Fatal Accident Injury System, (1) what estimate he has made of the number of outstanding coroners' inquests into deaths of armed services' personnel overseas which could have been dealt with in Scotland; [185490]

(2) how many meetings have taken place between his Department and the Scottish Executive to discuss changes to the Fatal Accident Injury System. [185491]

Maria Eagle: There is currently no provision under Scottish law for the Lord Advocate to authorise fatal accident inquiries into deaths, including those in military service, outside Scotland. It is an established principle in England and Wales that where multiple deaths occur in the same incident jurisdiction is retained by the coroner to whom the deaths are reported. On this basis we estimate that there are currently three outstanding coroner's inquests into single service deaths which might have been transferred to the Lord Advocate, had provision existed. Ministry of Justice officials and Scottish Executive officials met on 14 December 2007 to discuss options for enabling investigations into the deaths abroad of service personnel to take place in Scotland, where, that would be in the interests of the families of the deceased. These discussions are continuing.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 18 December 2007, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Paul Lang. [185053]

Mr. Straw: I apologise for the delay. I will respond to the right hon. Member shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 17 December 2007, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Gerard Meredith. [185055]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the right hon. Member on 4 February 2008. I apologise for the delay.

Ministry of Justice: Reorganisation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 January 2008, on the Ministry of Justice (Reorganisation), what steps he has taken to translate the documentation relating to changes in the Welsh Prison and Probation Service into the Welsh language. [184552]

Maria Eagle: We are committed to ensuring that all materials directed at the public in Wales will be published and printed in a bilingual form where reasonably practicable; otherwise documents will be available in separate English and Welsh versions at the same time.

In common with other documents issued by the Ministry of Justice, a translation of the prison policy update briefing paper into Welsh is available on request. The details of how to request alternative formats, including translation, is printed on the cover of the document.

No other documentation following the written ministerial statement has been produced yet.

Offender Management Service: Trade Unions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultations he has had with trades union representatives on the restructuring process of the Offender Management Service in Wales. [184667]

Mr. Hanson: Prison and probation trade unions are regularly consulted through the NOMS Joint Council, which is chaired by the NOMS chief executive. In addition, while it was not possible to consult on the detail of the restructuring prior to the announcement because of the need to first inform Parliament, the organisational review team met with members of NAPO in October at their request.

Since the announcement, the probation service consultative council meeting on January 30, chaired by the Director of probation, included a full briefing on the implications of the re-structuring, as did the meeting of the NOMS Joint Council on January 31. The Director General of the prison service wrote to all prison trade unions on the day of announcement, and spoke with representatives from the POA and the PGA to talk them through what was being planned and commit to ongoing consultation

Moving forward, the trade unions will be fully involved in the development of the next stage of design as part of the normal consultative processes. Consultation with the trade unions will continue as changes are implemented. There is ongoing consultation/dialogue which will continue as reform is implemented.

Offenders: Housing

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average daily number of persons accommodated under the bail accommodation and supervision scheme was in the latest period for which figures are available; [185550]

(2) how many properties Clearsprings has *(a)* provided and *(b)* contracted to provide in each (i) Welsh and (ii) English region. [185551]

Mr. Straw: The caseload of persons accommodated at 5 February was 242. On 31 January it was 243.

The contractor is required to provide bed spaces as opposed to a specified number of properties. The numbers of bedspaces currently required and the numbers provided in Wales and in each of the English regions are in the following table:

Region	*Bed spaces provided*	*Contracted to provide*
East of England	42	57
East Midlands	66	80
London	99	92
North East	56	50
North West	67	95
South East	40	76
South West	47	52
Wales	43	40
West Midlands	98	105
Yorkshire and Humberside	25	43
Total	583	690

In some regions the number provided exceeds the current requirement because the requirement has been reduced from that initially specified. The scheme endeavours to return people to their home area unless there is a reason not to. The accommodation requirement is based on the location of courts and prisons and data on prisoner origins. Both the requirement and the distribution are reviewed regularly and adjusted in response to demand.

Post-Mortems: Children

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to reform the Coroners Act 1988 and the restrictions regarding moving infants' and children's bodies for post mortem examinations; and if he will make a statement. [184748]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has awarded any contracts to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2000. [181510]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. For the years from 2000-01 to 2006-07, where information is available for contracts awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, and those bodies that were formerly part of the Home Office and which are now part of the Ministry of Justice, it appears in the following tables.

Information on contracts awarded in the first half of the current financial year across the Ministry of Justice is also provided.

Engaging consultancy support offers the Ministry of Justice a fast and flexible way of obtaining skills and experience that are not available in-house. Additionally, it is an efficient and cost-effective way of meeting ad hoc requirements and provides better value for money than expanding our permanent work force.

The Department uses appropriate competitive processes when seeking to engage consultants. Additionally, it is Department policy:

to make the most of skills and expertise available in-house by seeking to use such resource as a first option;

where external resource is used, to maximise the benefits from such expenditure by getting a good deal and managing the contract for value; and

to comply with good practice and EU rules in how we procure and manage such services.

Former Department for Constitutional Affairs

Financial year	*Number of contracts awarded to PWC*	*Net value (£)*
2000-01	1	33,000
2001-02	1	60,000
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	3	3.1 million
2004-05	3	2.2 million
2005-06	13	1.4 million
2006-07	6	514,000

National Offender Management Service[1]

Financial year	*Number of contracts awarded to PWC*	*Net value (£000)*
2000-01	n/a	—
2001-02	n/a	—
2002-03	n/a	—
2003-04	n/a	—
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	3	224

n/a = Not available.

[1] Information not held prior to 2004.

HM Prison Service[1]

Financial year	*Number of contracts awarded to PWC*	*Net value (£000)*
2000-01	n/a	—
2001-02	n/a	—
2002-03	n/a	—
2003-04	n/a	—
2004-05	1	75
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	1	104

n/a = Not available.

[1] Information not held prior to 2004.

Ministry of Justice

Financial year	*Number of contracts awarded to PWC*	*Net value (£000)*
2007-08 (April to September)	4	202

Prison and Probation Service: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for each element in the change programme for the new structure for prison and probation services in Wales. [184711]

Mr. Hanson: We announced on January 29 that we would merge the office of the Director of Offender Management Wales with the HMPS Area Office for Wales on April 1. It will be for the Director of Offender Management to decide the timetable for any further action needed to consolidate those changes after that date. The overall timetable for the transition from probation boards to probation trusts remains unaffected by the announcement on January 29. There is ongoing consultation/dialogue which will continue as reform is implemented.

Prisoners

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who come from Wales and are *(a)* in prison and *(b)* the subject of community penalties are subject to the end to end offender management process. [184671]

Mr. Hanson: The information is as follows:

(a) At January 2007 there were 491 offenders intending to return to Wales on release from prison who were subject to end to end offender management.

(b) At 30 September 2007, there were 9,286 offenders being supervised by the probation service in Wales subject to all court orders, all of whom were subject to end to end offender management.

The information on prisoners returning to Wales is not recorded centrally and has been calculated from probation area returns to the Director of Offender Management in Wales.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people of *(a)* Jamaican, *(b)* Nigerian, *(c)* Vietnamese and *(d)* Chinese nationality were released from prison in England in each of the last five years. [184617]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the numbers of Jamaican, Nigerian, Vietnamese and Chinese nationals discharged from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence, from all prison establishments in England between 2002 and 2006 can be found in the following table:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
China	40	30	110	250	450
Jamaica	690	1,100	1,190	800	490
Nigeria	180	230	260	350	460
Vietnam	40	50	50	90	80

Note:
Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine.

For the proportion of total prisoners who are foreign nationals, Council of Europe data on foreign national prisoners held in other major western countries reveal much higher proportions, for example in Austria (43 per cent.), Spain (33 per cent.), Germany (28 per cent.) and France (21 per cent.) than the figure for England and Wales (14 per cent.), based on 2006 population data.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 305W, on prisoners: taxis, how much the Prison Service has spent on taxis in each of the last three years. [184570]

Maria Eagle: Taxis are not routinely used for transporting prisoners to and from court or for inter-prison transfers. However, they are used for a variety of individual and short-notice journeys for prisoners, subject to risk assessment, where prison or other transport is not available and where it is cost-effective to do so. This can include journeys for medical treatment where an ambulance is not appropriate, urgent transfers between prisons, and travel to work or community placements where there is no suitable public transport. Taxi fares are normally paid through an account and the costs of journeys undertaken by prisoners cannot be identified separately from official journeys undertaken by staff.

Carter Review Team

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the members of the Carter review team are; what qualifications each holds; and what employment experience each has had. [178764]

Mr. Hanson: In his report 'Securing the future: Proposals for the efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales', Lord Carter of Coles thanked his team, whom he named. They were Jeremy Marlow, Daniel Flury, Alex Furse, Ian Maris, Camilla Hamilton, Caleb Deeks, Christine Dickinson, Lorna Maden, Nisha de Silva, Jenny Maresh, Ruth Allan, Helen Judge and Melissa Case. Some of these individuals worked full time on Lord Carter's review while others provided information and analysis as required.

It is not the Government's practice to provide personal details about individual officials. However, the team's background included experience of business planning and development, research and analysis, and policy development and delivery. This experience was gained within a variety of organisations including HM Prison Service, the National Offender Management Service, HM Treasury and the private sector.

Prisons: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 725W, what assessment he has made of the reasons why the cost per prisoner per annum at HMP Chelmsford is £2,397 above the national average; and if he will make a statement. [185266]

Mr. Hanson: As with all average figures, it follows that a number of the prisons in England and Wales will cost more per prisoner place than the average and a number will cost less. The level of funding in establishments is dependent on a number of factors including building type and location, the role of the establishment and mix of regimes, and the make-up of the population. Chelmsford has a significant young offender population and this contributes to the higher cost per prisoner. At a cost per prisoner of £29,134 Chelmsford falls at approximately halfway between the average cost per prisoner for a male local prison (£25,265) and the average cost per prisoner in a male closed young offender institution (£32,124).

Regional Offender Manager: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the responsibilities of the Regional Offender Manager is in Wales; and what the responsibilities of the directors of offender management are expected to be. [184668]

Mr. Hanson: The current responsibilities of the Director of Offender Management in Wales include:

providing strategic commissioning leadership;

driving the Welsh reducing re-offending agenda;

identifying needs and gaps in provision;

contracting with local commissioners to deliver offender management and interventions for offenders; and

holding providers of prison and probation services to account for their delivery responsibilities through negotiated SLAs or contracts.

After April 1 the Director of Offender Management will be responsible for all the aforementioned, with the added line-management responsibility for the public sector prisons. There is ongoing consultation/dialogue which will continue as reform is implemented.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has made to facilitate the merger of the offices of the Regional Offender Manager and the Prison Service Area Manager's office in Wales; and what account has been taken of the different geographical areas covered by those offices. [184669]

Mr. Hanson: In the run-up to April 1 2008 NOMS HQ and prison service HQ will provide the necessary logistical support to the office of the Director of Offender Management Wales and the HMPS Area Office for Wales to ensure that the transition is managed smoothly. After April 1 the re-organised NOMS HQ will support the re-organised office of the Director of Offender Management in consolidating the changes as appropriate.

Currently, the office of the Director of Offender Management Wales is responsible for commissioning services across Wales and for contract management of HMP Pare. The HMPS Area Office is responsible for managing the public sector prisons which are in South Wales. The combined office will be responsible for support to all Offender Management services across Wales. There is ongoing consultation/dialogue which will continue as reform is implemented.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are currently employed in *(a)* the Regional Offender Manager's office and *(b)* the Prison Service Area Manager's office in Wales; and what the projected staff numbers are in these two offices after the restructuring on 1 April. [184670]

Mr. Hanson: 17 staff are currently employed by the Director of Offender Management Wales' office, and 18 staff are currently employed by the Prison Service Area Manager's office in Wales.

It is not possible at this stage to say how many staff will be employed in the office of the Director of Offender Management after the restructuring on 1 April. It will be for the Director of Offender Management, supported by NOMS HQ, to determine exactly how the new merged office will be structured. There is ongoing consultation/dialogue which will continue as reform is implemented.

Young Offenders: Injuries

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the records kept on injuries in young offender institutions include information on *(a)* the nature of the injury sustained, *(b)* whether oxygen was administered, *(c)* whether the injury resulted in hospitalisation and *(d)* whether any subsequent medical treatment was required beyond that administered immediately after the injury was sustained. [184577]

Mr. Hanson: Data on assaults, restraints and self harm incidents across the under 18 estate are collected by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The data show the number of incidents and the severity of the injury (minor or serious). Serious injuries are those requiring hospital treatment. The nature of the injury and whether subsequent medical treatment was required is not recorded by the YJB.

The Prison Service's Incident Reporting System holds more detailed information on self-harm injuries in young offender institutions. This includes the nature of the injury and the type of treatment administered. However, the narrative form of this information precludes routine statistical analysis.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the recording of injuries sustained in young offender institutions and secure training centres include recording whether they were caused *(a)* by self-harm, *(b)* during restraint by prison officers, *(c)* during violence between detainees and *(d)* in an attempt at suicide. [184619]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) collects data across the under-18 estate on injuries sustained as a result of self-harm, restraint and assault. An attempted suicide would be recorded as an incident of self-harm because is not always possible to know the intent behind an act of self-harm.

The Prison Service's Incident Reporting System holds more detailed information on self-harm incidents in young offender institutions. This includes the nature of the injury, the type of treatment administered and whether the incident required hospitalisation. However, the narrative form of this information precludes routine statistical analysis.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost was of all imported coal in *(a)* 1982, *(b)* 1992 and *(c)* 2007. [183726]

Malcolm Wicks: The price of all imported coal in £/tonne is as follows:

	£/tonne
	All imported coal
1982	—
1992	36.18
2007	50.58

Source:
BERR. Data in current terms

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost was of *(a)* a barrel and *(b)* a tonne of coal equivalent of North Sea oil in (i) 1982, (ii) 1992 and (iii) 2007. [183727]

Malcolm Wicks: The price of North Sea Oil in £ per barrel and coal in £/tonne is as follows:

	North Sea oil £/barrel	*Coal £/tonne*
1982	18.85	44.60
1992	10.94	40.68
2006	32.53	43.63
2007	36.23	—

Source:
Oil—BP Statistical Review; coal—BERR Quarterly Energy Prices Table 3.1.3. Data in current terms.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost was of *(a)* a barrel and *(b)* a tonne of coal equivalent of imported oil in (i) 1982, (ii) 1992 and (iii) 2007. [183728]

Malcolm Wicks: The price of imported oil in £/barrel and coal in £/tonne is as follows:

	Imported oil £/barrel	*Coal £/tonne*
1982	—	44.60
1992	10.67	40.68
2006	35.17	43.63
2007	36.52	—

Source:
BERR, Quarterly Energy Prices Table 3.1.3. Data in current terms.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost was of a tonne of coal equivalent of North Sea oil in *(a)* 1982, *(b)* 1992 and *(c)* 2007. [183729]

Malcolm Wicks: The price of North Sea gas in p/kWh and coal in £/tonne is as follows:

	North Sea gas coal	
	p/kWh	*£/tonne*
1982	0.252	44.60
1992	0.539	40.68
2006	1.303	43.63

Source:
Gas—BP Statistical Review, coal—BERR Quarterly Energy Prices Table 3.1.3. Data in current terms.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average cost was of a tonne of coal equivalent of imported gas in *(a)* 1982, *(b)* 1992 and *(c)* 2007. [183730]

Malcolm Wicks: The price for gas at the NBP (UK delivery) balancing point in p/kWh and for coal in £/tonne is as follows:

	NBP gas p/kWh	*Coal £/tonne*
1982	—	44.60
1992	—	40.68
2006	1.43	43.63
2007	1.02	—

Note:
Although gas was imported into the UK from Norway in 1982 and 1992, it was under long term contracts, the details of which are not public.
Some imported gas is supplied under long-terms contracts that may or may not be related to the NBP price.
Source:
gas - Heren; coal - BERR Quarterly Energy Prices Table 3.1.3. Data in current terms.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the proposed new coal power station at Kingsnorth. [174690]

Malcolm Wicks: I received 25 objections direct during the statutory period, including objections from Greenpeace and Scottish Power. A website campaign has led to more than 9,000 objections to the local planning authority and over 1,000 objections to the Prime Minister. The local planning authority, Medway council, decided not to object to the proposed development and notified me of their view at the beginning of the new year.

Coal: Power Stations

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average cost of imported coal per tonne for use in power stations and coking plants in *(a)* 1982, *(b)* 1992 and *(c)* 2007. [183725]

Malcolm Wicks: Data for coal used in power generation, and for imported coal used in power generation for 2006, are as follows:

		£/tonne
	Coal for power generation	*Imported coal for power generation*
1982	40.21	—
1992	45.84	—
2006	38.06	38.93

Source:
BERR, Quarterly Energy Prices Table 3.2.1

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173836]

Mr. Thomas: The Department is committed to equality of opportunity and fair treatment for all staff and to ensuring that diversity considerations are actively built into all the services we provide to the public and the business community.

Specifically, the Department's Diversity Strategy includes diversity activities and training, budgeted at a cost of £480,000 in total for the current financial year. In addition there are four members of staff within Human Resources and our Policy Advice team involved specifically but not exclusively in the promotion of diversity and equality. The average staff cost relating to these staff over the past year is £98,520.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each year since establishment. [182528]

Mr. Thomas: The number of press officers employed by the Department of Trade and Industry since 1997 are as follows:

	Press officers
1997	20
1998	17
1999	24
2000	25
2001	23
2002	23
2003	23
2004	19
2005	18
2006	17
2007	16

The DTI was reorganised in July 2007. The number of press officers employed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform since 2007 are as follows:

	Press officers
2007	16
2008	17

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182712]

Mr. Thomas:-Bonuses and non pay rewards (including tax and NI for non-pay rewards) paid to press officers in the DTI were:

			£
2003-04	0	Highest: £0	Lowest: £0
2004-05	130.95	Highest: Unknown	Lowest: Unknown
2005-06	3,459	Highest: £1,000	Lowest: £50
2006-07	1,150	Highest: £350	Lowest: £200

The Department does not hold financial records for bonuses prior to 2003.

Departmental Whistleblowers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6th June 2006. [162451]

Mr. Thomas: There have been no allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported under the Department's whistleblowing procedures by departmental staff since 6 June 2006.

Departmental Telephone Services

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* related departmental bodies for public access to services. [179010]

Mr. Thomas: My Department administers one 0870 telephone number and seven 0845 telephone numbers for public use.

I have asked the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of their letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 7 February 2008:

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2007/948) asking how many 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers are used by (a) his Department and (b) related departmental bodies for public access to services.

The Insolvency Service has three 0845 lines. These are: the Insolvency Service Enquiry Line, the Redundancy Payments Helpline and the Enforcement Hotline.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 7 February 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House's Contact Centre telephone number is 0870 3333636.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last 10 years. [183302]

Mr. Thomas: My Department and its predecessor has not owned or purchased any vehicles in the last 10 years.

Vehicles used by the Department are usually leased and are therefore not owned or purchased by us.

Energy: Prices

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce energy costs for *(a)* vulnerable people and *(b)* people on low incomes in (i) west Lancashire and (ii) England. [184309]

Malcolm Wicks: Action to reduce energy costs for those on low incomes cuts across several Departments. The Government have a package of measures in place to support vulnerable households to reduce energy costs.

We have announced that spend on energy efficiency measures for those on low incomes for the period 2008-11 will be in excess of £2.3 billion. Since 2000 the Warm Front programme has helped over 5,500 vulnerable households install energy efficiency measures in west Lancashire. In England as a whole, 1.6 million households have been assisted since the start of the Warm Front scheme.

In the Energy White Paper we made it clear that we expected energy suppliers to have a proportionate programme of assistance in place for vulnerable customers. Energy companies have responded positively and have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers from £40 million to £56 million this winter.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on energy prices. [184863]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State has had both bilateral and multilateral meetings with CEOs and senior representatives from the energy supply companies. His last multilateral meeting was on 29 November 2007, hosted by the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy, where they discussed effective operation of the market, including prices.

As Energy Minister I met with the supply companies at the end of January specifically to discuss recent price rises and strategies for the protection of the most vulnerable consumers.

In addition, the Government have established the Business Energy Forum, a high-level strategic group involving representatives of the energy industry, national grid and Ofgem, and jointly chaired by BERR and CBI. This group has looked at developments in energy globally and the impact of world prices on our markets. I attended the last meeting in late October.

Engineering

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were employed in the engineering sector in 2007. [182946]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 February 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of people employed in the engineering sector in 2007. (182946)

The definitive source for the number of people employed is normally the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, because of the interest in the engineering sector an estimate of UK employee jobs has been compiled from the Short-Term Employment Surveys (STES).

The data provided is collected from the STES for June 2007. It is classified by the industry definition "Engineering and Allied Industries", taken from the Index of Production First Release. This is defined as the combined sub-sections: DK, DL and DM (Standard Industry Codes 29, 30-33, 34, 35).

Table 1, attached, provides an estimate of jobs in "Engineering and Allied Industries" in the United Kingdom for the month of June 2007.

As with any survey, results from the STES are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

PQ123 Employee jobs in the engineering sector June 2007 United Kingdom (June 2007), not seasonally adjusted

thousand

Employee jobs by class	*Total employee jobs*
DK 29 Manufacture of machinery and equipment N.E.C	270
DL 30-33 Manufacture of electrical and optical equipment	305
DM 34-35 Manufacture of transport equipment	308

Notes:

1. Figures are for the month of June in 2007.
2. As with any survey, results from the STES are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:

Short Term Employment Surveys (STES)

Fireworks

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to implement the European Union directive on the sale of pyrotechnic articles; and if he will make a statement. [184403]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* We intend to implement the Directive by the due date of 4 January 2010, and preparatory discussions with the relevant organisations have begun.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of recent trends in *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity prices on the number of people affected by fuel poverty. [184865]

Malcolm Wicks: Most recent figures show that there were approximately 2.5 million households in fuel poverty in the UK in 2005. This is around 4 million fewer than in 1996, but represents an increase of 0.5 million households since 2004, reflecting the impact of rising energy prices on fuel poverty. The following table shows estimated numbers of households in fuel poverty in recent years for both England and the UK:

Level of fuel poverty—total in millions of households

	UK	*England*
1996	6.5	5.1
1998	4.75	3.4
2001	2.5	1.7
2002	2.25	1.4
2003	2	1.2
2004	2	1.2
2005	2.5	1.5

Estimates for the number of households living in fuel poverty in England in 2006 indicate an increase, from 1.5 million in 2005, to 2.4 million in 2006, due to increases in gas and electricity prices. UK figures for 2006 will be available later this year.

Increases in energy prices since the end of 2006 will result in upward pressures on the numbers in fuel poverty. However, the additional number of households in fuel poverty will also be affected by increases in incomes and energy efficiency levels. These data come from the year long English House Conditions Survey, and it is only when we have this information that we will be able to produce meaningful estimates for these years.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were classified as living in fuel poverty in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [184866]

Malcolm Wicks: No regional breakdown of the fuel poverty statistics exists for the last three years. National figures for the most recent three years that have been published are shown in the following table:

Estimate of number of fuel poor households in the UK

	Million
2003	2
2004	2
2005	2.5

UK figures for 2006 will be available later this year.

The most recent year for which sub-national estimates were made for number of households in fuel poverty is 2003. The data for 2003 cover regions in England and comes from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/).

The following table shows estimates for number of households in fuel poverty in 2003 for each of the Government office regions in England:

Region	*Estimated number of fuel poor households (2003)*
East Midlands	112,000
Eastern England	132,000
London	162,000
North East	70,000
North West	187,000
South East	187,000
South West	129,000
West Midlands	139,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	136,000

Mobile Phones

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what correspondence he has had with the EU Commission on GSM gateway matters since 2003; [184674]

(2) what correspondence there has been between *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* UKREP and the European Commission on GSM gateway matters since 2003. [184675]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* My Department has not been able to do exhaustive research in the time available to answer these questions. The Government received a letter from the Commission in February 2005 and a reply was sent in June 2005. A further letter on this subject was sent from the Commission on 21 December 2007. A reply to that letter has not yet been sent. UKREP and Ofcom would have been involved in preparing a reply to the earlier letter and are involved in discussions about the latest correspondence. We have no records of separate correspondence between Ofcom and the Commission.

National Secretariat of the Regional Development Agencies for England

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are employed by the National Secretariat of the Regional Development Agencies for England; what its expenditure was in each of the last five years; and in which offices it is located. [176360]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretariat of England's Regional Development Agencies currently employs six full-time and one part-time staff. Its annual expenditure in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. Since the establishment of the RDA Secretariat in 2003, its functions have grown to reflect the increasing requirements upon a co-ordinating function. The RDA Secretariat is currently located in Broadway House, Tothill street, London SW1.

	£000
	Total cost
2002-03	253
2003-04	457
2004-05	505
2005-06	611
2006-07	682

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to establish accurate estimates of the costs associated with decommissioning nuclear facilities and radioactive remediation of civil nuclear sites. [184893]

Malcolm Wicks: Establishing the liability costs for all the sites in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) portfolio is a responsibility of the NDA and is an ongoing and unprecedented process, reflecting the fact that this is the first time that there has been an attempt to systematically catalogue the scale of the UK's civil public nuclear legacy. The latest future cost estimates are published in the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, which is available on their website at:

www.nda.gov.uk

Post Offices: Closures

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on how the Post Office should acknowledge or respond to letters on proposed post office closures. [176263]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Post Office Ltd. aims to acknowledge and fully consider all letters received during local consultations on post office closure and new outreach proposals. After final decisions have been reached, a decision booklet is issued which contains a summary of the issues and concerns raised and of how these were taken into account in the decisions.

Post Offices: EU Action

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what obligations arising from *(a)* the UK's membership of the European Union and *(b)* the UK's participation in single market legislation govern the provision of subsidy to the network of Post Office branches; and if he will make a statement. [184781]

Mr. McFadden: All state support for undertakings, whether privately or publicly owned, are subject to the rules laid down in Article 87(1) of the EC treaty. Funding of the Post Office network is therefore subject to the state aid rules and can only be given in compliance with these rules.

In November 2007 the Commission approved Government plans for support for Post Office Limited.

Post Offices: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions in the last six months Postwatch met Post Office Ltd to discuss proposed post office closures in Leicester; and who attended these meetings. [184622]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Postwatch. I have therefore asked Howard Webber, chief executive of Postwatch, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postwatch: Finance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Postwatch received from public funds in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [184167]

Mr. McFadden: The Consumer Council for Postal Services (also known as Postwatch) is funded through grant in aid from the Department. Postwatch received £9.681 million in 2006-07 and £8.151 million in 2007-08. The costs are recovered by the Department from the licensed fees paid by operators of postal services.

Regional Development Agencies: Plastic Bags

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many branded plastic bags each regional development agency purchased in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [184660]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trades Union Congress: Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice or guidance *(a)* the Certification Officer and *(b)* his Department has produced on whether the Trades Union Congress may engage in political campaigning using funds raised from trades unions' general fund contributions. [181284]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced advice or guidance on this issue.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Trades Union Congress is classed as a trade union for the purposes of political fund and political levy rules. [181286]

Mr. McFadden: Yes.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, when the independent review will begin; who will carry it out; and which Government Department will have lead responsibility for it. [185013]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has lead responsibility for commissioning the independent review of evidence on the effects of promotion and pricing of alcohol on alcohol-related harm.

The Department's Policy Research Programme has commissioned a single team comprising different disciplines and expertise from Sheffield University, School of Health and Related Research to carry out the review.

The review has two phases:

Phase 1: a systematic review of the evidence from published and grey literature on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion, consumption and harm; and

Phase 2: a modelling exercise to explore the impact of potential policy changes in this area.

The review team began work in the first week of January 2008.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Waiting Lists

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time was for an (i) outpatient appointment and (ii) operation for patients in the Barnet Primary Care Trust area in (1) 2006-07, (2) 2007-08 to date and (3) 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177909]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables show the average and longest waiting times for outpatient appointments and operations (inpatient treatment) in the Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) area in 2006-07, 2007-08 to date and 1997.

Today waiting times are at a record low; patients can expect a maximum 13 week wait for their first outpatient appointment and a maximum six month wait for an operation.

Latest data shows that over half of admitted patients (patients who require admission to hospital for treatment) and over three quarters of non-admitted patients are treated within 18 weeks.

Outpatient waiting statistics concerning the Barnet PCT area time periods—November 2007, June 1997 and March 2007: Patients still waiting at the end of the month

	Month	*Area*	*Median Waiting Time (weeks)*	*Longest wait*
2007-08	November	Barnet PCT	2.8	11 to <12 weeks
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	3.1	11 to <12 weeks
1997-08	June	Barnet Health Authority (HA)	n/a as not all time bands collected	26+ weeks

Inpatient waiting statistics concerning the Barnet PCT area time periods—November 2007, March 1997 and march 2007: Patients still waiting at the end of the month

	Month	*Area*	*Median Waiting Time (weeks)*	*Longest wait*
2007-08	November	Barnet PCT	5.5	25 to <26 weeks
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	6.4	25 to <26 weeks
1996-07	March	Barnet HA	12.6	18-20 Months

Notes:

1. Data for the last period (November 2007) include estimates for Barnet and Chase Farm Trust.
2. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. Inpatient waiting times are measure from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
4. Median waiting times are not available for outpatient waiting times as this information is not collected by all timebands. The information is collected in two timebands, 13-26 weeks and 26+ weeks, so calculating a median time is not possible. There were 388 patients waiting for more than 26 weeks for outpatient appointments at March 1997 for the Barnet HA area.

Source:

QM08R and monthly monitoring.

Broomfield Hospital: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were treated at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, for (i) alcohol-related injuries and (ii) alcohol-related illnesses in (A) 1996-97 and (B) 2006-07. [185010]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

There is not a specific classification for alcohol-related injury.

Statistics are not held for individual hospitals. Broomfield hospital, Chelmsford, is part of the Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust for which data are available.

The following table sets out the numbers of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) at the Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust where the primary or secondary diagnosis was alcohol related for both males and females in 1996-97 and 2006-07.

	1996-97	*2006-07*
Male	290	551
Female	112	279

Notes:

FCE

A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

HES Codes

The HES codes that are used to identify alcohol related diagnoses are as follows: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol; Toxic effect of alcohol; and Alcoholic liver disease.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Carr-Hill Formula Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1081-2W, on Carr-Hill Formula Review, whether the review of general medical services funding is complete; what the findings were of the first stage of the review; and if he will make a statement. [184440]

Mr. Bradshaw: A report on the review of the Carr-Hill formula was published in February 2007. This was followed by a three month consultation with key stakeholders which ended on 11 May 2007 and on which a report was published in September 2007. The review concluded that the formula works reasonably well but that some revisions could be made to make it more robust. We will consider the review's recommendations with other possible options for change to current contractual arrangements in discussion with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee.

Community Care

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there has been in the number of people receiving continuing care payments since the publication of the National Framework for Continuing Care on 1 October 2007. [183769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service does not make payments to individuals in receipt of continuing healthcare. Information on the number of people receiving continuing healthcare is collected on a quarterly basis, at end of March, June, September and December. Information for December is not yet available, so it is not possible to assess the change in the number of people receiving continuing healthcare since the introduction of the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care.

Community Nurses: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community nurses were based in Easington constituency in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [183028]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The information requested is not available at constituency level. However, data related to the Easington constituency are set out in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified community nursing staff1 in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

			Headcount
	2004	*2005*	*2006*
	991	1,063	1,125
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	4	11	11
County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT2)	958	1,022	1,085
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	20	15	14
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	9	15	15

Notes:

1. Community nurses consists of district nurses, health visitors, school nursing service nurses, community services nurses, practice nurses, community learning disabilities' nurses and community psychiatric nurses.
2. In October 2006 Derwentside PCT, Durham and Chester-Le-Street PCT, Durham Dales PCT, Easington PCT and Sedgefield PCT merged to form County Durham PCT.
3. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inpatients detained under sections *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3 and *(c)* 4 of the Mental Health Act 1983 absconded from psychiatric hospitals in each year since 1997; and from which hospital in each case. [184507]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally. Absconsions occur when patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 go missing outside of the secure perimeter of a unit, e.g. when on a scheduled visit. Missing patient incidents that originate from inside the perimeter of a secure site are termed escapes or breakouts.

Absconsions can be either non-serious or serious untoward incidents (SUIs). In relation to mental health patients, an SUI means the absconsion of a patient detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 where a significant risk is posed to the patient or to others. A non-serious absconsion would be where the absconsion is unintentional, due for example to a patient missing a transport connection when returning from leave.

SUI absconsion reporting is far more stringent than for non-serious absconsions. There must be clear local procedures at each national health service organisation to identify, report and investigate SUIs. Information is collected by each strategic health authority (SHA) about all SUIs reported during each calendar year by month, type and NHS organisation, and is available on request from the SHAs. These requirements do not apply to collecting non-serious absconsion data.

County Durham Primary Care Trust

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the effect on costs of the establishment of the County Durham Primary Care Trust has been; and if he will make a statement. [182418]

Ann Keen: County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) was established in October 2006 as a result of reconfiguration of services which was part of the Commissioning a Patient Led National Health Service initiative (CPLNHS). The CPLNHS costs and savings for County Durham PCT are shown in the following table:

£000

Source	*Costs*	*Savings*
2006-07 final accounts	4,118	0
2007-08 Q2 financial returns	488	1,780

There may be other costs associated with the establishment of County Durham PCT which are not part of the CPLNHS initiative.

After completion, the reconfigurations of PCTs was expected to deliver savings of £250 million every year for reinvestment in frontline services.

The savings are expected to be realised by the end of 2007 and then every year for reinvestment beginning in 2008-09. We have asked strategic health authorities (SHAs) to oversee the generation of the savings locally. Each SHA has a cost envelope that it should realise but it is for local determination to work out the best way of achieving these savings.

Family Practitioner Services: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to protect rural GP practices from closure following the establishment of super surgeries. [178596]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are committed to improving access to general practitioner services for all patients, including those in rural practices. Where changes in the organisation of local primary medical care services are proposed, these are matters that will be determined locally by primary care trusts in association with their strategic health authority.

Fluoride: Water

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which strategic health authorities in England have undertaken public consultations on adding fluoride to water supplies; and what research projects have been commissioned by his Department since 2000 to investigate water fluoridation and health effects. [183719]

Ann Keen: No strategic health authorities have yet undertaken public consultations.

The Department has commissioned three research studies on fluoridation and health since 2000, 'Water Fluoridation and Health' published by the Medical Research Council in 2002, 'Bioavailability of Fluoride in Drinking Water: a Human Experimental Study' in 2005 published by the University of Newcastle and the use of fluorescent imaging to develop objective and quantitative measures of enamel fluorosis which is currently in progress.

Gambling: Health Services

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been provided for the treatment for people diagnosed with gambling-related addictions in each of the last five years; [183942]

(2) what services are available to assist people with a diagnosed gambling-related addiction. [183943]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information about how much is provided for the treatment of people diagnosed with gambling related addictions is not collected centrally.

Problem gamblers can access services in primary care and secondary care including specialised mental health and addiction services. There are currently no central plans to provide dedicated services. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with local healthcare communities who are responsible for assessing and commissioning services to meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

General Practitioners: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people had a consultation with their GP within 48 hours of requesting an appointment in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* Enfield borough in the latest period for which information is available. [183469]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected in the format requested. Data are held at primary care trust (PCT) level, not constituency or borough level. The general practitioner (GP) Patient Survey 2007 showed that 79 per cent., of people living in the Enfield PCT area reported having a consultation with their GP within 48 hours of requesting an appointment, compared with a national figure of 86 per cent. 2007 is the latest period for which data is available.

The public service agreement target is for all patients to have the opportunity to see a GP within 48 hours. GP practices who achieve national access standards as measured by results of the national GP Patient Survey are rewarded. Using the survey data, PCTs are working with local practices to deliver improvements in GP access in areas with the poorest reported satisfaction.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries there are in *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* Enfield Borough. [178676]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on general practitioners (GPs) is not held in the format requested.

Information is available for number of GP practices at primary care trust (PCT) level, and has been provided for Enfield PCT. Latest available data are for September 2006 and is shown in the following table.

GP practices in selected area, as at 30 September 2006

	Number
Enfield PCT	62

Note:
Enfield North Constituency is contained within Enfield PCT, Enfield PCT also serves the borough of Enfield.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, (General and Personal Medical Services Statistics).

General Practitioners: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the funding of general practitioners in Portsmouth for extended opening hours; and if he will make a statement. [184334]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 4 February 2008, we wrote to all general practitioners (GPs) in England setting out our proposals for funding extended hours services. We hope that GPs will support our proposals to improve services to patients.

Health Hazards: Lighting

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 18 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 454W, on health hazards: lighting, if he will take steps to assess the effects of the use of *(a)* fluorescent and *(b)* low energy light bulbs on those suffering from (i) light sensitivity and (ii) systemic lupus erthromatosis in conjunction with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [174042]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health currently has no plans, in conjunction with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs or otherwise, to assess the effects of the use of low energy light bulbs on those living with light sensitivity, or lupus.

Health Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have yet to achieve foundation status; and on what date in each case this status is expected to be granted. [183616]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are now 88 national health service foundation trusts (NHS FTs) in operation, which are listed by Monitor (the statutory name for which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) further information is available at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/register.php

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are required to work with those acute and mental health trusts that have not yet achieved foundation status to address the issues facing their organisations so that they receive the right support to be able to apply for NHS FT status. While all trusts have a timetable to apply for NHS FT status, achieving this status is dependent on securing clear support from the SHA and the Secretary of State and on meeting Monitor's rigorous criteria for authorisation. The Department has been working with SHAs and Monitor to improve the throughput and the success rate of applications. The Government expects all trusts to achieve NHS FT status at the earliest available opportunity.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-medical staff are employed by each of the four acute hospital trusts in outer South East London. [184650]

Ann Keen: The four acute national health service trusts in outer south-east London are Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust and The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust.

The information requested for these trusts is available in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: non-medical staff by main staff group as at 30 September 2006

	Headcount
Total of specified organisations	8,805
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	2,458
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,286
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	989
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	297
Qualified allied health professions	141

NHS hospital and community health services: non-medical staff by main staff group as at 30 September 2006

	Headcount
Qualified healthcare scientists	77
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	79
Support to clinical staff	866
Support to doctors and nursing staff	724
Support to ST and T staff	142
NHS infrastructure support	306
Central functions	205
Hotel, property and estates	30
Managers and senior managers	71
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	2,090
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,226
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	974
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	252
Qualified allied health professions	127
Qualified healthcare scientists	78
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	47
Support to clinical staff	653
Support to doctors and nursing staff	551
Support to ST and T staff	102
NHS infrastructure support	211
Central functions	160
Hotel, property and estates	8
Managers and senior managers	43
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	1,689
Professionally qualified clinical staff	878
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	673
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	205
Qualified allied health professions	108
Qualified healthcare scientists	61
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	36
Support to clinical staff	615
Support to doctors and nursing staff	473
Support to ST and T staff	142
NHS infrastructure support	196
Central functions	99
Hotel, property and estates	68
Managers and senior managers	29
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	2,568
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,392
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,124
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	268
Qualified allied health professions	114
Qualified healthcare scientists	79
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	75
Support to clinical staff	659
Support to doctors and nursing staff	512
Support to ST and T staff	147
NHS infrastructure support	517
Central functions	209
Hotel, property and estates	248
Managers and senior managers	60

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census

Health Services: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts are held between private sector providers of health care and *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* NHS trusts and *(c)* NHS foundation trusts. [182779]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service is free to enter into local agreements with independent sector providers and the Department does not collect this information centrally.

In terms of contracts centrally procured by the Department's Commercial Directorate, the following contracts between the independent sector and the NHS exist.

Wave 1

Scheme	*Provider*	*Lead primary care trust (PCT)/local NHS region*
Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	Nations/Circle	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT
Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	Nations/Circle	South Staffordshire PCT
Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	Barnsley PCT
Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	UKSH	Somerset PCT
Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	Netcare	Oldham PCT
Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	Plymouth PCT
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT
Boston NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT
Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	North Yorkshire and York PCT
Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Newcastle PCT
New Hall NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Southampton City PCT
Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Milton Keynes PCT
Reading NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Milton Keynes PCT
Horton NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Oxfordshire PCT
Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	Ramsay	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT
Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	Worcestershire PCT
Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	Interhealth	Western Cheshire PCT
Mid Kent NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	West Kent PCT
North East London NHS Treatment Centre	PHG	Barking and Dagenham PCT

Wave 1

Scheme	*Provider*	*Lead primary care trust (PCT)/local NHS region*
Mid and South Buckinghamshire NHS Treatment Centre	Mercury/Care UK	Buckinghamshire PCT
Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	Mercury/Care UK	Medway Teaching PCT
St. Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	Mercury/Care UK	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT
Sussex Orthopaedic NHS Treatment Centre	Mercury/Care UK	Brighton and Hove City PCT
Havant NHS Diagnostic Service	Mercury/Care UK	Hampshire PCT

Phase 2

Scheme	*Provider*	*Lead PCT/local NHS region*
London NHS Diagnostic Service	InHealth Netcare	Strategic Health Authority (SHA) regions involved—London
West Midlands Diagnostic Service (contract terminating 14 February 2008)	Care UK	SHA regions involved—West Midlands
Cheshire and Merseyside Electives	Spire Healthcare	SHA regions involved—North West
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Multi Specialty Treatment Centre	Spire Healthcare	SHA regions involved—North East
Cumbria and Lancashire Electives	Ramsay	SHA regions involved—North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humber

The Secretary of State is signatory to contracts centrally procured by the Department's Commercial Directorate.

Through Wave 1 of the centrally led procurements, operational contracts also include:

Scheme/programme	*Provider*	*Area covered/PCTs*
Chlamydia (contract ending 31 March 2008)	Boots Chemists London	London SHA
Mobile MRI Fast Track	Alliance Medical	Nationwide
Ophthalmic chain	Netcare	Nationwide

Commuter walk-in centres

Scheme/programme	*Provider*	*Area covered/PCTs*
London Canary Wharf	Atos Healthcare	London SHA
London Liverpool Street	Walk in Health	London SHA
London Victoria	Care UK	London SHA
Manchester Piccadilly	Atos Healthcare	North West SHA
Newcastle	Care UK	North East SHA
Leeds	Netcare	Yorkshire and Humber

Health Services: Public Participation

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase the budgets for local involvement networks. [183807]

Ann Keen: The Department received an allocation of £84 million over three years from HM Treasury to fund the establishment and costs incurred by local involvement networks and has no plans to bid for any further funds. The allocations to local authorities (LAs) were based on two elements used in many similar cases to take account of key geographical factors such as deprivation, sparsity, area costs, etc. The first was a general baseline payment of £60,000 awarded to each LA. The second was calculated according to the Relative Needs Formula, which is used to allocate funds to LAs in other areas of work.

Hospital Telephones

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on hospital telephones, whether his Department has conducted any assessment of the effect of telephone charges in children's wards on recovery rates. [181959]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not conducted any assessment of the effect of telephone charges in children's wards on recovery rates.

The cost to make a call from the bedside telephone is 10p per minute. The bedside telephone exists as an additional service, which offers patients more choice than they had in the past. Alternatives, for patients who do not wish to use the bedside telephone service, include the hospital payphones and mobile phones.

Mixed Sex Wards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of progress towards the elimination of mixed sex wards. [183823]

Ann Keen: Guidance to the national health service has always required single-sex accommodation, not wards.

NHS compliance with Departmental guidance is currently measured in three ways:

The Standards for Better Health, specifically standards:

> Standard C20b: Healthcare services are provided in environments which promote effective care and optimise health outcomes by being: (b) supportive of patent privacy and confidentiality. In 2007, 96.7 per cent. of trusts reported compliance.
>
> Standard C13a: "Health care organisations have systems in place to ensure that: (a) staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect". In 2007 94.9 per cent. of trusts reported compliance.
>
> Patient Environment Action Team inspections. Current results show all trusts at least 'acceptable' for privacy and dignity.
>
> The National Inpatient Survey, 2007 report showed 11 per cent. of in elective patients reported sharing sleeping areas with the opposite sex when they were first admitted.

Sometimes, the need to treat and admit will take priority over complete segregation. This particularly applies to highly technical and emergency areas such as intensive care unit and admissions units. While the DH will give leadership on this matter, the solutions lie with the NHS.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 requires primary care trusts to agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement on mixed sex accommodation, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms.

Hospitals: Admissions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place for informing hospital staff of the availability of hospital beds in other hospitals; [178722]

(2) how many staff in a typical hospital are tasked with finding overflow hospital beds in other facilities. [178725]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The day-to-day bed management arrangements in national health service hospitals are operational matters that the Department does not routinely collect information about.

Hospitals: Greater London

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many elective in-patients were treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183108]

(2) how many day cases were treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183109]

(3) how many elective-care patients were treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183125]

(4) how many emergency in-patients were treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [183176]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the requested format as the number of patients treated are not recorded. Information is held on number of finished admission episodes. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. There is not a distinction between elective in-patients and elective-care patients.

The number of finished admission episodes at the four requested hospitals are set out in the following table.

Number of day case, elective and emergency finished admission episodes at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust and Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in 2005-06 and 2006-07

		Finished admission episodes	
	NHS trust name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Day Cases[1]	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	14,898	15,452
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	17,748	18,961
	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	13,917	16,233
	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	23,563	24,020
Elective in-patients[2]	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	3,644	2,813
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	5,794	5,815
	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	4,915	3,907
	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	4,648	4,369
Emergency in-patients[3]	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	12,615	10,817
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	16,450	17,059
	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	25,213	23,900
	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	19,523	19,412

Notes

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

FAE

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Day Cases[1]

The patient classification field identifies day cases, ordinary admissions, regular day and regular night attenders, and the special case of mothers and babies using only delivery facilities. For this inquiry, we have only included 'day case admission'.

Elective Admission[2]

These are the elective admission classifications to specify in more detail how the patient was admitted to hospital.

Elective: from waiting list

Elective: booked

Elective: planned.

Emergency Admission[3]

These are the emergency admission classifications to specify in more detail how the patient was admitted to hospital.

Emergency: via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider

Emergency: via general practitioner

Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau

Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic

Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reference cost for elective in-patients treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183110]

(2) what the average cost of treating an elective in-patient at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183111]

(3) what the average cost of treating an emergency in-patient at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183113]

(4) what the reference cost for day-cases treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183114]

(5) what the average cost of treating a day case at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183115]

(6) what the reference cost for elective-care treatment was at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183123]

(7) what the average cost of treating an elective-care patient at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183124]

(8) what the reference cost was for follow-up out-patients treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183126]

(9) what the average cost of treating a follow-up patient was at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183144]

(10) what the reference cost for out-patients treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183146]

(11) what the average cost of treating an out-patient at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust was in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183147]

(12) what the reference cost was for emergency inpatients treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [183177]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

Reference Costs are collected at Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) level. These are groupings of hospital procedures with similar resource use. Therefore for each type of admitted patient there are over six hundred separate costs collected in Reference Costs and similar groups are collected for outpatients. Therefore no single Reference Cost can be provided for each of the questions asked. The individual Reference Costs are used to generate the average costs.

Average costs of emergency in-patients are not specifically collected. They are included in the non-elective in-patient category, which has a slightly wider definition. The average cost of a non-elective in-patient has therefore been provided.

The hon. Member has requested the average cost of an elective care patient and the average cost of an elective in-patient. This is the same information and is covered in the table under average cost of an elective in-patient.

Average costs for 2006-07 have not yet been published. The latest available average costs are for 2005-06.

Such information as is available is set out in the following table.

Average costs of day-case patients, elective and non-elective in-patients and out-patient and follow-up out-patient appointments at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, and Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in 2005-06

	Average cost of a day-case 2005-06[6]	*Average cost of an elective in-patient 2005-06*[1,2,6]	*Average cost of a non-elective in-patient 2005-06*[1,3,6]	*Average cost of an out-patient appointment 2005-06*[4,6]	*Average cost of a follow-up out-patient appointment 2005-06*[5,6]
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup	860.00	3,000.00	1,150.00	80.00	60.00
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	830.00	2,270.00	1,300.00	140.00	120.00
Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust	570.00	2,330.00	1,910.00	140.00	120.00
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1,260.00	2,020.00	1,460.00	120.00	90.00

[1] All in-patient figures are exclusive of excess bed days.

[2] Average cost of elective in-patient does not include cost of day-cases.

[3] Average costs are not collected for emergency in-patients specifically, only as non-elective in-patients, which is a slightly wider definition. The average cost of a non-elective in-patient has been provided.

[4] The data provided are the average costs of an out-patient attendance (both first and follow-up attendances, as a distinction was not specified) which includes any treatment during that attendance unless it is specifically identified elsewhere (such as radiology) in which case these costs will not have been incorporated into the average. The average costs do not include maternity out-patients as these are collected separately.

[5] The data provided are the average costs of a follow-up out-patient attendance, which includes any treatment during that attendance, unless it is specifically identified elsewhere (such as radiology) in which case these costs will not have been incorporated into the average. The average costs do not include maternity out-patients which are collected separately.

[6] All average costs are rounded to the nearest 10.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many follow-up patient appointments there were at was *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [183145]

(2) how many out-patients were treated at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust, *(c)* Lewisham Hospitals NHS Trust and *(d)* Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [183148]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is collected on a quarterly basis and is set out in the following tables.

Number of consultant-led, new and follow-up, outpatient attendances at Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust in 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Quarter ended	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen
2005-06	June 2005	17,890	36,074	53,964
2005-06	September 2005	18,231	42,369	60,600
2005-06	December 2005	18,956	42,385	61,341
2005-06	March 2006	19,383	37,666	57,049
2006-07	June 2006	19,239	36,156	55,395
2006-07	September 2006	19,794	36,441	56,235
2006-07	December 2006	19,734	36,132	55,866
2006-07	March 2007	20,722	36,701	57,423

Source:
Department of Health form QM08s/QMOP

Number of consultant-led, new and follow-up, outpatient attendances at Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust in 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Quarter ended	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen
2005-06	June 2005	11,833	26,022	37,855
2005-06	September 2005	11,291	26,243	37,534
2005-06	December 2005	11,343	25,769	37,112
2005-06	March 2006	11,296	26,831	38,127
2006-07	June 2006	11,142	25,870	37,012
2006-07	September 2006	10,636	24,531	35,167
2006-07	December 2006	10,873	24,120	34,993
2006-07	March 2007	11,012	25,062	36,074

Source:
Department of Health form QM08s/QMOP

Number of consultant-led, new and follow-up, outpatient attendances at Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust in 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Quarter ended	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen
2005-06	June 2005	9,148	21,314	30,462
2005-06	September 2005	14,496	21,732	36,228
2005-06	December 2005	14,045	22,793	36,838
2005-06	March 2006	13,611	23,919	37,530
2006-07	June 2006	14,677	25,466	40,143
2006-07	September 2006	14,291	25,517	39,808
2006-07	December 2006	14,910	26,705	41,615
2006-07	March 2007	15,746	22,112	37,858

Source:
Department of Health form QM08s/QMOP

Number of consultant-led, new and follow-up, outpatient attendances at Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust in 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Quarter ended	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen
2005-06	June 2005	9,578	28,966	38,544
2005-06	September 2005	10,578	30,228	40,806
2005-06	December 2005	9,457	24,667	34,124
2005-06	March 2006	10,578	30,527	41,105
2006-07	June 2006	10,741	33,226	43,967
2006-07	September 2006	11,680	29,796	41,476
2006-07	December 2006	12,810	28,403	41,213
2006-07	March 2007	14,673	29,626	44,299

Source:
Department of Health form QM08S/QMOP

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clostridium difficile were reported in the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust area in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [180782]

Ann Keen: The mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides data on the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection. All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of *C. difficile* infection processed by their laboratories and the data are published at trust level.

Mandatory surveillance of *C. difficile* was introduced in 2004 for patients aged 65 and over and has been extended to all patients aged two and over from April 2007.

The HPA publishes these data on their website so this information and any further information on the number of *C. difficile* infections for NHS acute trusts is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

The mandatory surveillance data on *C. difficile* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* has been placed in the Library. These will be updated each quarter.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many human papilloma virus vaccines have been administered since the scheme was first introduced. [185458]

Dawn Primarolo: Latest data from electronic prescribing analysis and costs indicate that 2,974 doses of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines had been prescribed up to November 2007.

The routine HPV immunisation programme starts in September 2008.

Local Involvement Networks

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to support the involvement of patients and the public in monitoring the effectiveness of services provided for the NHS by *(a)* the third sector and *(b)* the private sector; and if he will make a statement; [182778]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that the Local Involvement Network Regulations 2008 require private sector providers of health and social care to allow members of local involvement networks reasonable access to their premises for the purpose of viewing and monitoring the quality of health and social care. [182782]

Ann Keen: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, set out important new arrangements for the involvement of patients and the public in health and social care, including Local Involvement Networks (LINks). LINks will enable local people to monitor local services irrespective of who provides them.

LINks will build on the work of voluntary and community sector groups; and, enable genuine involvement of a far greater number of people than is currently available, ensuring local communities have a stronger voice in the process of commissioning health and social care and enabling them to influence key decisions about the services they both use and pay for.

In order to ensure that independent sector providers—be they from the private or third-sector—cooperate with LINks, we will make Directions requiring primary care trusts and local authorities to ensure that their contracts with the independent and third sectors allow LINks entry to appropriate premises and access to appropriate information. This will ensure that LINks will have the same levels of access as they do in the public sector.

These changes are aimed at promoting open and transparent communication between communities and the health service, and will develop trust and confidence, increasing accountability to local people.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to promote *(a)* the involvement of and *(b)* consultation with patients and the public who receive NHS services through (i) third sector and (ii) independent sector organisations. [182903]

Ann Keen: Under section 242 of the NHS Act 2006, all national health service organisations are required to involve service users in the planning, development and operation of health services. This duty does not apply directly to third sector and independent sector organisations.

NHS organisations which commission services from the third and independent sector must specify in their contractual arrangements that service users shall be systematically involved in the planning, development and operation of services and that such involvement shall be evidenced and reported as part of contract performance.

The involvement of users in services provided by third sector and independent sector organisations shall be developed and promoted in the forthcoming statutory guidance for section 242 to be published in summer 2008.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were certified as blind due to macular degeneration in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years, broken down by age bands. [184060]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse events relating to malnutrition have been reported in the NHS between *(a)* October 2005 and September 2006 and *(b)* October 2006 and September 2007. [170055]

Ann Keen: Information Centres do not hold any information relating to malnutrition. The closest thing they could provide is the prevalence of those who are underweight, but these are not available for the dates specified, the latest data would be for 2005 and we have reservations about using data on the numbers of people who are underweight as an indicator of malnutrition.

Hospital episodes statistics team are not able to provide anything either, particularly as it is not clear what is meant by an 'adverse event' and are not sure whether malnutrition would be picked up as a primary or secondary diagnosis anyway.

Mass Media

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's national media evaluation reports for December 2006 to December 2007; and if he will publish the reports on his Department's website. [184562]

Mr. Bradshaw: No national media evaluation reports have been produced for the Department since November 2006.

All reports prior to that date have been published and can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/
Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/DH_4130120

Mental Health Services: Community Care

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support will be made available to those people who no longer meet the criteria for the services provided under the care programme approach following changes to that programme. [184176]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report of the review of the Care Programme Approach (CPA) has not yet been published. The criteria for eligibility for mental health services is not set by CPA guidance, so these will not be affected by any changes to CPA guidance.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 724W, on Mid Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust: finance, if he will place a copy of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report in the Library. [182586]

Ann Keen: The PricewaterhouseCoopers report into the financial position of Mid Yorkshire hospitals NHS trust was commissioned in order to inform Ministers and officials as to the possible solutions for the repayment of the historic debt in the trust.

This report is still being used to inform Ministers and officials as part of this financially challenged trust review process and as such, we feel the release of the report may prejudice their ability to rely on free and frank advice that is contained within.

In addition the report contains a detailed breakdown of the trusts financial position including valuations on the organisations assets and liabilities, which if made public may harm the organisation in future negotiations with commercial partners.

Music: Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the risks to hearing of the amplification level of recorded music broadcast in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [180728]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for research on occupational health risks to hearing from noise in the workplace. It has no plans to commission research into the risks to hearing arising from the amplification level of recorded music broadcast in the workplace. Risks to hearing from exposure to high levels of sound are well understood, and are not generally considered to be dependent on the source or type of sound.

Neurology

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising neurosurgeons there are in England. [178723]

Ann Keen: The latest published annual national health service workforce census showed there were 187 consultants working in neurosurgery in England in 2006. In addition there were eight associate specialist and staff grades in neurosurgery. There were also 358 doctors in training or equivalent grades working in neurosurgery in England.

Maternity Services

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health (i) services and (ii) procedures provided for infants from birth to first birthday in different primary care trust areas. [179765]

Ann Keen: The joint Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families Family Nurse Partnership intervention supports vulnerable first time young mothers from the 16th week of pregnancy until the child is aged two years. It is being piloted across in England at 10 sites. An evaluation of the first year of the pilots is being undertaken by the University of London, Birkbeck and is scheduled to be published in April 2008.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born in NHS hospitals in England in each month since January 1997, broken down by *(a)* stage of gestation at birth and *(b)* birth weight. [182274]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the latest information on live births by birth weight and gestational age at birth.

Live births by birth weight and gestational age at birth, England and Wales, 2005

		Birth weight (grams)				
Gestational age (weeks)	*All*	*Under 1,000*	*1,000 to 1,499*	*1,500 to 2,499*	*2,500 and over*	*Not stated*
Number of live births						
All	645,887	3,217	4,832	40,739	594,930	2,169
Under 24	647	605	5	2	15	20
24 to 27	2,431	1,795	507	24	71	34
28 to 31	5,825	648	2,943	1,952	239	43
32 to 36	39,538	61	1,211	20,536	17,594	136
37 and over	592,158	73	112	17,872	572,373	1,728
All with known gestational age	640,599	3,182	4,778	40,386	590,292	1,961
Low gestational age inconsistent with birth weight	100	0	8	15	65	12
Gestational age not stated	4,315	26	44	311	3,925	9
Not linked to NN4B record	873	99	22	627	648	187
Percentage of live births with known gestational age						
Under 24	0.1	19.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0
24 to 27	0.4	56.4	10.6	0.1	0.0	1.7
28 to 31	0.9	20.4	61.6	4.8	0.0	2.2
32 to 36	6.2	1.9	25.3	50.8	3.0	6.9
Under 37	7.6	97.7	97.7	55.7	3.0	11.9
Percentage of all live births						
Gestational age not stated	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.4
Not linked to NN4B record	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	8.6

Source:
Office for National Statistics

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the value of unused prescription drugs prescribed throughout the national health economy in the last year for which figures are available; [184766]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the value of wasted and returned prescription drugs in the national health economy in the last year for which figures are available; [184767]

(3) what steps he plans to take to reduce the cost of unused, returned or wasted prescription drugs to the national health economy; [184768]

(4) what estimate his Department has made of the value of unused, wasted or returned prescription drugs in the Cumbrian health economy in the most recent period for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of how these costs may be reduced; what assessment he has made of alternative uses for returned medication; and what guidance is given to medical practitioners on these matters. [184769]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not have an estimate of the current annual value of unused prescription drugs or wasted and returned prescription drugs. We are in the process of commissioning research to establish the scale, costs and causes of waste medicines in England. The research will provide the basis for further action to reduce the cost of wasted medicines.

We support a range of initiatives including repeat dispensing and medicines use reviews, through the contractual framework for community pharmacy, where pharmacists help patients get the most from their medicines, while at the same time minimising the wastage of medicines by optimising their use.

More than 1,200 prescribing advisors are employed at various levels in the national health service work with general practitioners to encourage and secure rational and cost-effective prescribing. We are concerned about wastage from unused medicines. However, it is not appropriate to promote the reuse of medicines returned from patients. Recycling medicines returned by patients is both unethical and unsafe.

A number of primary care trusts (PCTs) in the north-west have participated in a regional medicines waste campaign. However, Cumbria PCT is developing its own campaign on waste, working with local stakeholders and media.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to procure cheaper medicines for prescription throughout the national health economy. [184770]

Dawn Primarolo: The prices of national health service branded prescription medicines and the profits that companies can make on these sales are controlled by the 2005 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) which is a voluntary agreement, negotiated with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. On 1 January 2005 the prices of medicines covered by the PPRS were reduced by 7 per cent. with the aim of effecting a corresponding reduction in the NHS expenditure on branded medicines while securing the provision of safe and effective medicines for the NHS at reasonable prices. The PPRS is currently being renegotiated with the pharmaceutical industry.

The major control over the expenditure on NHS generic medicines is effected by the Category M system which adjusts reimbursement prices in line with market prices each quarter and taking into account of the findings of the medicines margins survey, which monitors the amount of margin pharmacies earn on the medicines they dispense. These arrangements were agreed as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework and have the objectives of ensuring that safe and effective generic medicines are available to patients while securing value for money for the NHS.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department is offering to the NHS for the implementation of patient-level information and costing systems. [184280]

Mr. Bradshaw: Linking patient-level information to costing presents an important opportunity to make a step change in the quality of cost data. Patient level costing and information systems are therefore being adopted by some national health service organisations with the support and encouragement of the Department.

This support has included engaging suppliers of costing systems to ensure the NHS is clear about what is required of their solutions.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of primary care trust revenue allocations were covered by payment by results in each financial year since the system was initiated; what proportion of primary care trust revenue allocations he expects to be covered by payment by results in each year until 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [184281]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage of primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations covered by payment by results (PbR) from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is set out in the following table:

	Percentage of PCT revenue allocation covered by PbR
2005-06 outturn	[1]16
2006-07 outturn	[2]36
2007-08 forecast	[3]34
2008-09 forecast	[3]33

[1] Based on 2005-06 outturn activity

[2] Based on 2006-07 outturn activity

[3] Based on forecast activity growth in 2007-08 and 2008-09

It is not possible to estimate figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 until revenue allocations and the national tariff has been finalised for these years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which specific concerns about the performance of the secondary uses service were raised by respondents to his Department's consultation on the Options for the Future of Payment by Results, as stated on pages 18-19 of the Summary of Responses to the consultation, published on 24 January 2008. [184282]

Mr. Bradshaw: A large number of responses were received that made reference to the secondary uses service (SUS). Specific concerns are summarised as follows:

levels of support and training;

the observation that SUS is not yet fully operational;

perceived problems from 2005-06, relating to lead in times, support, and guidance;

the flexibility of SUS to allow local arrangements to be taken into account;

the length of time allowed for 2007-08 SUS data to be submitted;

the clarity of rules on SUS that apply to all providers; and

SUS's ability to enable frequent uploads.

However, many of the comments relating to the SUS were non-specific, acknowledging that increasing the timeliness of data flows is contingent on SUS supporting the more pressing deadlines.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staffing costs for *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nursing staff and *(c)* all NHS staff were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [182784]

Ann Keen: Staffing costs in the most recent year for which figures are available (2006-07) were:

£6,330,231,000 for doctors;

£11,114,727,000 for nurses, midwives and health visitors; and

£29,908,033,000 for all national health service staff.

These staffing cost figures do not include NHS foundation trusts as the Department does not hold such information. NHS foundation trusts staffing costs may be obtained by writing to the chairmen of those trusts.

North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to North Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust in each year since its inception; and for what purposes the funding has been allocated. [185584]

Ann Keen: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not national health service trusts or individual hospitals. NHS trusts receive most of their income through the commissioning arrangements they have with PCTs.

North West Brussels Office: Health

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the North West Health Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available. [184643]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 485W.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1698W, on obesity, how many staff worked in his Department's obesity, nutrition and physical activity teams in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by payband. [184438]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table. Figures are available for the last two years from February 2006 to February 2008.

Grade/Payband	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Executive Officer/Personal Assistants	10	11
Higher Executive Officer	5	6
Senior Executive Officer	10	11
Principal	11	12
Senior Civil Service	6	5
Total	42	45

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people referred to weight management clinics who did not attend such clinics in each of the past five financial years for which figures are available; and what percentage of the number of people referred this represented in each year. [184514]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally.

Palliative Care: Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government expenditure on palliative care was in each year since 2004-05; and what it is forecast to be in each year to 2010-11. [185562]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect information centrally on expenditure on palliative/end of life care and there are no central revenue allocations specifically for end of life care. Primary care trusts (PCTs) remain responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Post-Mortems: Children

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children's bodies had to be moved *(a)* to the adjoining coroner's district and *(b)* further afield for post mortem examinations by paediatric pathologists in each of the last five years. [184750]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The statistical information is neither held centrally nor by individual coroners. However, we are aware that there are shortages of paediatric pathologists in some areas of the country, and coroners may have to move bodies beyond their adjoining districts to access the appropriate scientific expertise. The draft Coroners Bill, published in June 2006, sets out the Government's plans for reform of the system. It removes the current restrictions regarding the movement of bodies, giving coroners the power to order that a body be moved to any suitable place for a post-mortem examination. The Bill will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when public consultation on prescription charges in England will commence; when its findings will be published; and if he will make a statement. [182797]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government will be inviting views shortly on possible options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service. A summary of the responses to the consultation will be published in due course.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions incurred a prescription charge in each of the last three financial years; and how many are projected to incur a prescription charge in each of the next three financial years; [184544]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who *(a)* paid for their prescriptions in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* will pay for their prescriptions in each of the next three financial years. [184545]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no data available on the numbers of people who pay the prescription charge. The total number of chargeable prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, for the last three financial years is provided in the following table. This is taken from prescription exemption category estimates. Projections for the next three financial years are not available.

£000

	Number of chargeable prescription items	Number of prescription items paid by pre payment prescriptions	Total number of chargeable prescription items
2004-05	57,436	32,346	89,782
2005-06	56,568	33,558	90,126
2006-07	56,080	34,617	90,697

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis system.

Primary Care: Standards

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on clinical outcomes in primary care of the new GP contract in the last three years. [184765]

Mr. Bradshaw: Practices have responded positively, to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), with almost universal participation covering 99.8 per cent. of registered patients in England. There is evidence from independent research that shows achieving the quality targets in the QOF can achieve significant health gains. There is also emerging evidence that care is now improving more rapidly for asthma and diabetes than before the QOF was introduced. For coronary heart disease, where there have already been major improvements in quality for a number of years, the improvement has continued at the same rate.

As part of a review of the new general practitioner contractual arrangements the Department has commissioned a long-term research project to assess the impact of the QOF by improving the quality of care to patients.

Sexual Dysfunction: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for anti-impotence preparations in each of the last three years, broken down by preparation. [183765]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is in the following table.

Drugs for erectile dysfunction (British National Formulary (BNF) 7.4.5)

	Prescription items (Thousand)		
Preparation	2004	2005	2006
Androskat injection 30mg/1ml 2ml ampoule	0.001	0.001	0
Caverject injection Dual Chamber 10mcg pre-filled syringe cartridge	2.272	2.761	3.284
Caverject injection Dual Chamber 20mcg pre-filled syringe cartridge	6.868	7.708	8.95
Caverject injection pack (10mcg vial + diluent)	9.548	8.705	8.087
Caverject injection pack (20mcg vial + diluent)	21.031	18.619	17.946
Caverject injection pack (40mcg vial + diluent)	7.72	7.939	8.854
Caverject injection pack (5mcg vial + diluent)	1.791	1.704	1.571
Cialis tablet 10mg	98.514	123.635	135.846
Cialis tablet 20mg	167.784	246.8	302.262
Invicorp-1 injection solution auto-injector	0.068	0.06	0.068
Invicorp-2 injection solution 1ml ampoule	0.054	0.055	0.078
Invicorp-2 injection solution auto-injector	0.008	0.002	0.005
Levitra tablet 10mg	32.015	44.763	49.7
Levitra tablet 20mg	38.049	62.296	80.283
Levitra tablet 5mg	3.944	5.555	6.072
Muse Transurethral System Stick 125mcg	0.497	0.507	0.154
Muse Transurethral System Stick 1mg	12.645	12.764	13.224
Muse Transurethral System Stick 250mcg	3.131	3.057	3.021
Muse Transurethral System Stick 500mcg	6.959	6.32	6.329
Papaverine Hydrochloride/Phentolamine injection 30/1mg 1ml ampoule	0.01	0.002	0.001
Papaverine Hydrochloride/Phentolamine injection 30mg/1mg vial	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride/Phentolamine injection 40mg/1mg syringe	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 100mg/2ml ampoule	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 10mg/1ml ampoule	0.006	0.004	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 120mg/2ml ampoule	0	0.001	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 15mg/1ml ampoule	0.001	0.004	0.003
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 160mg/2ml ampoule	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 200mg/5ml ampoule	0	0.003	0.001
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 20mg/10ml ampoule	0	0.001	
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 20mg/1ml ampoule	0.071	0.051	0.028
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 20mg/1ml vial	0.001	0.005	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 20mg/2ml ampoule	0.003	0.001	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 20mg/5ml ampoule	0.002	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 25mg/1ml ampoule	0.039	0.021	0.032
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/0.5ml ampoule	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/1ml ampoule	0.08	0.039	0.031
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/1ml pre-filled syringe	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/1ml vial	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/2ml ampoule	0.112	0.091	0.076
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/2ml pre-filled syringe	0.003	0.001	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/2ml vial	0	0.001	0

Drugs for erectile dysfunction (British National Formulary (BNF) 7.4.5)

	Prescription items (Thousand)		
Preparation	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 30mg/3ml ampoule	0	0	0.001
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/0.5ml ampoule	0.002	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/10ml ampoule	0	0.001	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/1ml ampoule	0.335	0.23	0.155
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/1ml pre-filled syringe	0.024	0.017	0.006
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/1ml vial	0.01	0.046	0.008
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 40mg/2ml ampoule	0.003	0.002	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 50mg/1ml ampoule	0	0.001	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/1ml ampoule	0.106	0.11	0.071
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/1ml pre-filled syringe	0.001	0.002	0.005
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/2ml ampoule	0.098	0.069	0.047
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/2ml pre-filled syringe	0.001	0	0
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/2ml vial	0.001	0	0.002
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 60mg/5ml ampoule	0	0	0.001
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 80mg/1ml ampoule	0	0.001	0.001
Papaverine Hydrochloride injection 80mg/2ml ampoule	0.02	0.017	0.01
Papaverine sulphate injection 30mg/1ml ampoule	0.001	0	0.001
Papaverine sulphate injection 30mg/2ml ampoule	0	0	0.001
Papaverine sulphate injection 40mg/1ml ampoule	0.014	0.012	0.004
Papaverine sulphate injection 40mg/2ml ampoule	0.001	0	0
Papaverine sulphate injection 60mg/2ml ampoule	0.001	0	0.001
Papaverine sulphate injection 80mg/2ml ampoule	0	0.001	0
Prowess Plain tablet 5mg	0.127	0.1	0.085
Revatio tablet 20mg	0	0	0.235
Uprima tablet sublingual 2mg	9.266	7.061	3.024
Uprima tablet sublingual 3mg	12.365	9.564	4.102
Viagra tablet 100mg	564.178	567.838	592.726
Viagra tablet 25mg	54.905	51.995	51.647
Viagra tablet 50mg	405.222	395.145	398.058
Viridal 10 Duo continuation pack injection 10mcg cartridge	1.045	0.988	0.943
Viridal 10 injection pack (10mcg + diluent)	0	0.009	0.014
Viridal 20 Duo continuation pack injection 20mcg cartridge	1.799	1.597	1.456
Viridal 20 injection pack (20mcg + diluent)	0	0.016	0.001
Viridal 40 Duo continuation pack injection 40mcg cartridge	1.767	1.939	1.962
Viridal 5 injection pack (5mcg + diluent)	0	0.001	
Yocon tablet 5.4mg	0.01	0.006	0.002
Yohimbine Hydrochloride capsule 10mg	0.001	0	0
Yohimbine Hydrochloride capsule 2.5mg	0.004	0	0
Yohimbine Hydrochloride capsule 5.4mg	0.005	0.014	0.008
Yohimbine Hydrochloride capsule 5mg	0.01	0.007	0.008
Yohimbine Hydrochloride tablet 2mg	0.001	0	0
Yohimbine Hydrochloride tablet 5.4mg	0.008	0	0
Yohimbine Hydrochloride tablet 5mg	0.194	0.131	0.093
Yohimbine Hydrochloride tablet 6mg	0.001	0	0
Total	1464.8	1590.4	1700.6

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) Data

Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

Prescription Items

Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

Note:

Some of these drugs may have been prescribed for other conditions but it is not possible to determine how large a proportion. Similarly, drugs from other parts of the BNF or drugs not licensed for this condition, may have been prescribed. Again, it is not possible to determine the proportion of the use of these drugs.

Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospitals Trust: Infectious Diseases

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* extended-spectrum beta-lactamases and *(c)* vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus were reported at the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospitals Trust in 2007. [181905]

Ann Keen: The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust had 20 methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* blood stream infection reports between January and June 2007.

The information requested for extended-spectrum beta-lactamases is not available centrally and no cases of vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* have been reported in the United Kingdom to date.

Smoking: Young People

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his strategy is for reducing the number of young people who smoke. [184061]

Dawn Primarolo: Reducing smoking among young people is a top priority for the Government.

In October 2007, the Government raised the age of sale of tobacco products from 16 to 18 years. The age increase was an effective way of communicating the serious health risks associated with tobacco and a step towards de-normalising smoking among young people.

Legislation is currently before Parliament to increase sanctions available against retailers who are found to repeatedly sell tobacco to people under the age of 18. The provisions will help enforce restrictions on the age of sale and further prevent access to tobacco by young people.

The 'Cancer Reform Strategy', published in December 2007, announced that the Department will consult on the 'next steps' in tobacco control, including options for further regulation of tobacco products. This consultation will take place in spring this year and will seek views from stakeholders on what further can be done to tackle smoking among young people.

The Department is continuing to communicate the serious health risks associated with smoking to young people. Hard-hitting picture warnings highlighting the health consequences of smoking are required to be displayed on all tobacco products produced after 1 October 2008.

On 1 July 2007, all enclosed parts of work and public places in England became smokefree. This measure will provide health benefits to the whole population, for future generations.

A comprehensive advertising ban on tobacco products has been in place since February 2003. The ban was extended in 2006 to include major restrictions on point of sale advertising and a ban on tobacco advertising on the internet from sites that originate in the United Kingdom or European Union. The advertising restrictions virtually eliminate young people's exposure to tobacco marketing.

Local stop smoking services are able to provide a range of support options to anyone wanting to quit smoking, including young people. Resources are also available that can be accessed by smokers direct on smoking cessation, these include the NHS 'gosmokefree' website and from the general NHS Smoking Helpline (0800 169 0 169).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which journalists were embedded in those UK units which provided support to Afghan forces during the recent Musa Qaleh campaign; and what media organisations they were from. [184253]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The two journalists were Rupert Hamer of the *Sunday Mirror* and Stephen Grey, reporting for the *Sunday Times*.

Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel went absent without leave in each of the last 10 years, broken down by service. [184313]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows absence without leave statistics by calendar year for each service since 1998.

	RN	*Army*	*RAF*
1998	30	1,850	15
1999	35	2,055	15
2000	55	2,710	25
2001	90	2,645	25
2002	110	2,950	25
2003	120	2,820	35
2004	185	3,025	55
2005	195	2,715	35
2006	155	2,330	10
2007	115	2,255	25

Notes:

1. Both the Navy and the Army record AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL, so there may be a number of people who are represented more than once in these figures.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and are as at 4 February 2008.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* manning levels and *(b)* average tour intervals are for each manning pinch point in (i) the Army, (ii) the Navy and (iii) RAF. [162635]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of the manning levels for pinch point trades are provided in the following table. The figures are those reported for financial year 2007-08 Quarter 3 returns.

It is not possible to determine tour intervals for manning pinch point trades. Tour intervals apply to units which consist of personnel from a number of trades in the armed forces.

Royal Navy Pinch Points	*Manning Level (Percentage)*
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	43
Lt GR7 Harrier Pilots	49
Merlin Observers	54
Merlin Pilots	61
Merlin Aircrew	78
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	74
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	78
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	71
Leading Hand Warfare	67
Able Bodied Diver	65
Royal Marines Other Ranks	91
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	82
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	75
Nuclear Watchkeepers	76
Able Bodied Seaman	60
Army Pinch Points	
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Vehicle Mechanic 1	80
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Recovery Mechanic	80

Royal Navy Pinch Points	*Manning Level (Percentage)*
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Armourer	88
Royal Engineers Clerk of Works	85
Army Medical Service - General Surgeon	37
Royal Engineers Mechanical Engineer Fitter	80
Royal Logistics Corps Ammunition Technician	56
Royal Logistic Corps - Postal and Courier Operator	84
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps -Radiographer	57
Royal Engineers Military Engineer Geographic	64
Intelligence Operational Military Intelligence	74
Royal Engineers Explosive Ordnance Disposal	51
Royal SIGNALS Information Systems Engineer	98
Royal Engineers Command, Control and Communications Systems	87
Army Medical Service—General Medical Practitioner	88
Royal Logistics Corps Chef	88
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps -Operation Department Practitioner	63
Royal Logistics Corps Petroleum Operator	58
AG Corps Staff and Personnel Service (Mil Admin)	86
Royal Artillery - Operator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	52
Army Medical Service - Nurse Officer	73
Army Medical Service - A and E Nurse Officer	70
Army Medical Service - Anaesthetist	38
Army Medical Service - Radiologist	20
Army Medical Service - Orthopaedic Surgeon	39
Army Medical Service - Intensive Therapy Unit Nurse Officer	77
RAF Pinch Points	
Medical	71
Operational Support (Intelligence)	97
Operational Support (RAF Regiment)	83
Operational Support (Provost/Security)	92
Operational Support (Flight Ops)	92
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	82
Weapons Support (Air Load Master)	89
Weapons Support (Linguist)	81
Air Traffic Control/ Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant—Sergeant	90
Firefighter	88
Gunner	84
Movements Operations/Controller	99
RAF Police	92
Staff Nurse (RGN) A and E	86

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual complement is of each regiment in the (i) Household Cavalry, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps and (iii) Royal Logistics Corps. [182332]

Derek Twigg: For the purposes of answering this question, required complement is recorded as liability and actual complement is listed as held strength. All data refer to regular army officer and soldier strength as at 24 January 2008 other than where annotated, and reflects all personnel, regardless of cap badge who are part of a regiment. It should be noted that held strength may change on a daily basis for a number of reasons including personnel being posted in or out of a regiment.

The following table shows the liability and held strength for each regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps including the Household Cavalry:

Unit	*Liability*	*Held strength*
Household Cavalry Regiment	522	491
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment	325	291
1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards	407	353
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	587	483
The Royal Dragoon Guards	569	506
The Queen's Royal Hussars	587	547
9th/12th Royal Lancers	407	404
The King's Royal Hussars	569	521
The Light Dragoons	522	385
The Queen's Royal Lancers	522	457
2nd Royal Tank Regiment	569	558

The liability and held strength of each regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps is:

Unit	*Liability*	*Held strength*
1 Log Sp Regt	599	[1]509
2 Log Sp Regt	619	514
3 Log Sp Regt	599	576
4 Log Sp Regt	600	547
5Trg Regt	86	84
6 Sup Regt	659	624
7 Tpt Regt	583	574
8 Tpt Regt	548	497
9 Sup Regt	819	774
10 Regt (QOGLR)	466	464
11 EOD Regt	576	576
12 Log Sp Regt	602	534
13 Air Asslt Regt	763	737
17 Port and Maritime Regt	598	597
23 Pnr Regt	665	646
24 PC and Mov Regt	383	383
25 Trg Sp Regt	131	121
27 Tpt Regt	615	[2]631
29 PC and Mov Regt	447	[3]433

[1] 10 January 2008
[2] 31 December 2007
[3] 7 January 2008

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of below strength recruitment to *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each year since 2000. [184829]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 6 February 2008]*: It would not be possible to quantify the overall financial impact of these factors without incurring disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Public Relations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of pre-deployment training comprises public relations; and to which levels of command. [184254]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All personnel deploying or on stand-by to deploy on operations receive training that is relevant to their rank and role in theatre. The term public relations in not generally used in a Pre Deployment training context, but topics covered will include: media awareness, language and cultural training, psychological operations, information operations and civil military co-operation.

The precise content of PDT is left to the deploying operational commanders, based on their reconnaissance visits to theatre and direction from the permanent joint headquarters and HQ LAND. The proportions of the overall training package that is devoted to the above elements will therefore vary.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force are involved in recruitment; and whether these figures meet the manning requirement. [183150]

Derek Twigg: All armed forces personnel, either directly or indirectly, have a recruiting role. Nevertheless, the numbers of Naval Service and Royal Air Force personnel primarily involved in managing or delivering the regular service recruiting process are as follows:

Naval Service: 339, against an establishment of 356;

Royal Air Force: 324, against an establishment of 348.

Details of the numbers of Army personnel primarily involved in recruitment activities are not readily available and I will write to the hon. Member with the details in due course.

The numbers primarily engaged in recruiting activities is regularly reviewed against requirement with adjustments being made to reflect priorities.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current in-service date is for the Panther vehicle. [184255]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in-service date (ISD) for Panther, as stated in the main gate business case, was November 2007. Declaration of this ISD having been achieved has currently been withheld until certain support aspects, not required to be in place until the end of March 2008, have been finalised.

This delay in formal declaration of the Panther in-service date having been achieved has no impact on the delivery of the vehicles to the Army.

Bombs

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research and development has been commissioned into alternatives to dumb and smart cluster munitions for use by HM forces. [184531]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD's research and development programme has shifted its focus from dumb munitions to the delivery of precision effects through a variety of weapon concepts. The Department is commissioning a broad programme covering sensor, fuzing and effects technology, as well as modelling performance of components and systems to assess effectiveness against targets, to understand unintended consequences and to reduce collateral damage. This is outlined under the requirements for complex weapons and general munitions in Chapters B7 and B8 of the Defence Technology Strategy published in 2006, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the failure rate is of not-dumb cluster munitions available to HM forces; and if he will make a statement. [184533]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 155 mm L20A1 Extended Range Bomblet Shell is the only cluster munition that the MOD holds as part of its stock pile. There have been a number of trials of the L20A1, which contains M85 bomblets with a self-destruct mechanism. When the totality of test and acceptance firings is analysed over the life of the munition, the average bomblet failure rate is approximately 2 per cent. As part of its ongoing quality and performance regime, the MOD continues to actively monitor the performance of this system and explore, in partnership with the supplier, the factors which might have a bearing on failure rates.

Bowman Combat Radio System

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1835W, on Bowman Combat Radio System, what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the cost effectiveness of batteries provided by ABSL Power Solutions for Bowman; and whether the National Audit Office has been involved in making an assessment of the cost effectiveness. [184089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not commissioned research on, or evaluated the cost effectiveness of batteries provided by ABSL Power Solutions for Bowman. The Bowman contract for the complete system, including power supplies, was awarded to General Dynamics United Kingdom (GDUK) Ltd. on a firm price basis. GDUK subsequently awarded sub contracts to ABSL following their own competitive selection process. The National Audit Office has examined the overall value for money of the Bowman Combat Infrastructure Platform programme (HC 1050 Session 2005-2006/25 July 2006).

Bowman Combat Radio System: Batteries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1835W, on Bowman Combat radio system: batteries, what information the Bowman power study is expected to add to *(a)* the report on portable power sources compiled by the Defence Scientific Advisory Council and *(b)* the commissioning of ABSL by the Future Integrated Soldier Technology project team to produce a prototype; and if he will make a statement. [184081]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Bowman power study is in its early stages but all appropriate evidence will be considered in the evaluation of future power options.

The power requirements for the Future Integrated Soldier Technology project are yet to be fully defined and there has been no commission of a prototype battery.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the UK is making to EU military operations in Chad. [184923]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The UK is contributing a total of four military officers to the ESDP mission to Chad/Central African Republic (CAR): two officers in the operational HQ at Mont Valerien in Paris and two officers in the force HQ in Chad/CAR. These staff officers are being provided under standing EU headquarters augmentation procedures.

On 25 January 2008 the EU's Special Committee ATHENA approved a budget for the common costs of EU military operations in Chad/CAR covering the period to the end of 2008. The UK share of the approved budget is £14 million, of which £5.9 million has already been paid. A further budget for 2009 will be prepared by the Operation Commander after six months of the operation for consideration by the Special Committee; this will comprise mainly the costs of recovering force headquarter elements from theatre. The UK share of ATHENA common costs is attributed to the FCO peacekeeping budget.

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent support *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the armed forces have offered to the government of Colombia in combating the smuggling of illegal drugs across the Colombia-Venezuela border. [185494]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Preventing the cross-border flow of illicit drugs from Colombia to neighbouring countries is a top priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK is investing in projects in Colombia and Venezuela to tackle the cross-border flow of illicit drugs. These projects have helped to build capacity among Colombian and Venezuelan law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. In addition, funding of a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime project on cross border co-operation has recently been approved.

We take a broad regional approach to tackling the trade in illicit drugs, through a mixture of political engagement, capacity building and law enforcement support in producer, transit and consumer countries. This includes working with Governments of other producer and transit countries in Latin America and countries along the main trafficking routes for drugs via the Caribbean and West Africa.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking against illegal bird killing in sovereign base areas in Cyprus. [184486]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2004, the Sovereign Base Area Administration (SBAA) enacted the Protection and Management of Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2004, which includes provisions for strict penalties for poaching and other offences relating to birds. It also provides for the designation and management of Special Protection Areas.

All fenced military areas, which host some of the best habitat are not only fully protected from poaching but are also game reserves in which no hunting is allowed.

The SBAA has been co-ordinating joint anti-poaching action with the Republic.

Hot spots for poaching have been identified and are targeted on a daily basis for police patrols.

Where poachers/trappers are arrested, the aim is for the case to be heard within seven days. Whenever a shot gun is involved, the judge is urged to consider confiscation and destruction. In addition, the law provides for a penalty of up to €17,000 or three years imprisonment or both if they are found guilty of illegal bird killing.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's forecast asset and stock price reports provided by the Defence Analytical Services Agency to the *(a)* fixed asset processing centre and *(b)* directorate of defence resources and plans. [184856]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure could prejudice commercial interests.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on commercial international flights in each year since 1997. [174359]

Derek Twigg: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182522]

Derek Twigg: Accurate information on this is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can say that there are currently 191 staff employed by the Ministry of Defence's central Directorate General Media and Communications. Of these, 22 are press officers in its London office and eight in its regional press offices. The others carry out various communications and supporting tasks.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1589W, on departmental marketing, what the dimensions are of the display boards in his Department's London buildings. [185021]

Derek Twigg: There are currently no display boards relating to departmental marketing in the Ministry of Defence London buildings.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library an index of military salaries of his Department's staff, rebased to 2000, for each financial year from 1996-97 to 2006-07. [180296]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Analytical Services Agency's publication 'United Kingdom Defence Statistics' for 2007, table 2.26 provides an index of military salaries, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. However, I have arranged for a copy of this, recalculated to a base of 2000-01 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's expenditure by standard industrial classification for financial year 2006-07. [184857]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Estimates of aggregate MOD cash expenditure in UK industry and commerce, broken down by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), are published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency, in table 1.9a of the annual statistical compendium "United Kingdom Defence Statistics", copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The latest available figures are for 2005-06. Figures for 2006-07 will not become available until September 2008.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vehicles were *(a)* owned and *(b)* purchased by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [183289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence currently leases the majority of the white fleet vehicles it uses. This arrangement has been in place since 2001. Details of white fleet vehicles owned and purchased before this date are no longer held.

Falkland Islands: Land Mines

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of unexploded landmines in the Falkland Islands; what plans he has to remove them; and what the estimated cost is of removing them. [184436]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The field survey report conducted by Cranfield university, as part of the joint UK-Argentine feasibility study completed in October 2007, estimated that approximately 20,000 landmines may remain on the Falkland Islands. The feasibility study and the field survey are being made available in the Library of the House.

The Government are now considering the options for clearance before deciding on next steps. I am withholding the estimated costs as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the additional costs incurred by his Department due to increases in the cost of fuel in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08. [178503]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fuel price changes (predominantly affecting maritime and aviation fuel) are estimated to have added outturn costs of around £80 million over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 to the departmental fuel bill. The cost of fuel for operations, reflected in this figure, in Iraq and Afghanistan is paid for from the Treasury Reserve.

Future Rapid Effect System

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for announcing which utility variant vehicle has been chosen for the Army as part of the future rapid effect system programme. [178893]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I announced in my written ministerial statement on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 40WS, further work with all three possible providers of the future rapid effect system utility vehicle design has been undertaken, and an announcement will be made in due course.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the first full complement of Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to be deployed on an aircraft carrier. [185768]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many joint strike fighters he plans to order in *(a)* the first tranche and *(b)* total; when he expects the first tranche of joint strike fighters to be available for ordering; on what date his Department first established that no joint strike fighters would be available by the planned in-service date of the first of the future aircraft carriers; how many (i) joint strike fighters and (ii) Harrier GR9s he plans to deploy on each future aircraft carrier; when he expects the order will be placed for each future aircraft carrier; and what the in-service date for each is expected to be. [184949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We will set the number and in-service date for the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) capability when the programme reaches sufficient maturity and we make the main investment decision. We will continue to ensure that the JCA and CVF programmes remain coherent, including carefully managing the transition from Harrier to JCA, as has been the plan since the start of the JCA programme. On the CVF order and in-service dates, I refer the hon. Members to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme. [185466]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1593W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft are (i) in service with the RAF and (ii) fit for purpose. [183515]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 509W, which gave the number of aircraft in service.

The number and percentage of C130J, C130K, VC10, Tristar and C-17 that are in the Forward Available Fleet and considered Fit for Purpose are detailed in the following table. Forward Available Fleet aircraft are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes; and does not include aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, part of planned routine fleet maintenance. Aircraft defined as fit for purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The figures shown are the average for the financial year to 31 December 2007 and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Average forward available fleet	*Average percentage of total fleet*	*Average fit for purpose*	*Average percentage of forward available fleet*
C-17	3	86	3	86
Tristar	7	80	5	72
VC10	13	80	8	63
C130K	13	67	10	80
C130J	18	76	14	79

Military Equipment: Land Mines

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Husky or Chubby vehicle sets the Army has; and where they are stationed. [183611]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army does not use Husky or Chubby vehicle sets.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence police officers there were in each year since 1997; and how many there are expected to be in each year to 2012. [172776]

Derek Twigg: The figures for the number of Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Officers since 1997 are provided in the following table.

The forecast for MDP Officers in 2008 is currently approx 3,500. Security at MOD establishments is kept under constant review and future numbers will reflect the needs of the Department.

	Number of MDP Officers
1997	3,714
1998	3,625
1999	3,568
2000	3,393
2001	3,257
2002	3,247
2003	3,290
2004	3,322
2005	3,415
2006	3,465
2007	3,447

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 28 January 2008

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost changes have been approved for schemes in the Highways Agency's major roads programme since the publication of the Nichols report in March 2007. [168982]

[Official Report, 10 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 9-10W.]

Letter from Tom Harris:

An error has been identified in a Written Answer given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park on 10 December 2007. In the table given in the original answer the figures in rows one and two should be transposed. The expected cost of M27 J3-4 should be £36 million and the expected cost of M27 J11-12 should be £17.4 million.

DEFENCE

Topical Questions

T8. [179984] **Mr. David Amess** (Southend, West) (Con): In the light of weekend reports, will the Secretary of State give details of future troop withdrawals from Iraq, bearing in mind the number of our constituents who write to us about the military covenant, suggesting that our British servicewomen and men are not treated well, either in service or when they leave service?

[Official Report, 21 January 2008, Vol. 470; c. 1204.]

Letter from Des Browne:

An error has been identified in the Oral Answer given to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 21 January 2008. The Secretary of State for Defence meant to say:

Des Browne: …As for specific numbers, there is a constant assertion, often fed by politicians, that information about troop numbers in southern Iraq is erroneous. It is not. Troop numbers were reduced to about 4,500 before the turn of the year. Indeed, only last week there were 4,330 troops in southern Iraq, but that number fluctuates because of rest and recuperation, and sometimes because of temporary troop deployments…

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 31 January 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Off in Work Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the time the proposed better off in work credit will be available beyond 26 weeks; and if he will make a statement. [175769]

[Official Report, 22 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 1887-88W.]

Letter of correction from Stephen Timms:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1887-88W. The correct answer should have been:

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The better off in work credit, as announced in "Ready for Work: full employment in our generation" will be piloted by October 2008. There are no plans to make any changes to the design of the credit until it has been properly evaluated.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 5 February 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163693]

[Official Report, 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 601-02W.]

Letter of correction from Anne McGuire:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 601-02W. The correct answer should have been:

Mrs. McGuire: The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. The following information reflects data recorded on that system for the number of staff dismissed because of their attendance record on grounds of sickness. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

Financial year	*Number of staff disciplined for unsatisfactory attendance*	*Number of staff dismissed for unsatisfactory attendance*
2007-08 (to 15 November 2007)	4,018	575

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 7 February 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Political Impartiality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the declared party political affiliations are of members of the boards of *(a)* the National Lottery distributors, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* agencies within the responsibilities of his Department. [181142]

[Official Report, 24 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 2173W.]

Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 24 January 2007. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Sutcliffe: In accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, board members are required to declare details of political activity and are asked to include the name of the political party they have been active for. Applicants are not required to provide details of party political membership or affiliation but may do so if they choose.

Of currently serving board members for DCMS bodies, 48 board members in total have made a political activity declaration. Of these, nine are from a Lottery Distributor; 39 from a non-departmental sponsored body and none from departmental agencies.

In terms of political activity this can be further broken down as follows: Of the nine Lottery Distributor board members who made a declaration: eight were active for the Labour Party and one declared political activity independent of a political party. Of the 39 non-departmental sponsored body board members who made a declaration, 11 were active for the Conservative Party, 23 for the Labour Party, three for the Liberal Democrats and two declared politically independent activity.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to Jeremy Hunt for information.